



They're Free

Freed American Shane Bauer, center, and Josh Fattal, right, talk to the media upon their arrival from Iran, in Muscat, Oman Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011. After more than two years in Iranian custody, two Americans convicted as spies took their first steps toward home Wednesday as they bounded down from a private jet and into the arms of family for a joyful reunion in the Gulf state of Oman.

(AP Photo/Sultan Al-Hasani)

**BRIAN MURPHY
SAEED AL-NAHDY
Associated Press**

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — After more than two years in Iranian custody, two Americans convicted as spies took their first steps toward home Wednesday as they bounded down from a private jet and into the arms of family for a joyful reunion in the Gulf state of Oman. The families called this “the best day of our lives,” and President Barack Obama said their release — under a \$1 million bail-for-freedom deal — “wonderful news.” The release capped complicated diplomatic ma-

neuvers over a week of confusing signals by Iran's leadership on the fate of Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer. Although the fate of the two gripped America, it was on the periphery of the larger showdowns between Washington and Tehran that include Iran's nuclear program and its ambitions to widen military and political influence in the Middle East and beyond. But — for a moment at least — U.S. officials may be adding words of thanks in addition to their calls for alarm over Iran.

For Tehran, it was a chance

to court some goodwill after sending a message of defiance with hard-line justice in the July 2009 arrests of the Americans along the Iran-Iraq border. The Americans always maintained they were innocent hikers. “Today can only be described as the best day of our lives,” said a statement from their families. “We have waited for nearly 26 months for this moment and the joy and relief we feel at Shane and Josh's long-awaited freedom knows no bounds.” “We now all want nothing more than to wrap Shane and Josh in our arms, catch

up on two lost years and make a new beginning, for them and for all of us,” the statement added. Obama called it “wonderful, wonderful news about the hikers, we are thrilled ... It's a wonderful day for them and for us.” U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the hikers' release, saying he “appreciates the decision to respond to international appeals on humanitarian grounds,” said spokesman Martin Nesirky. “He commends all parties who helped to secure their release.”

Continued on next page

At 11:08: Troy Davis Executed



Anti-death penalty supporters comfort each other after Troy Davis was executed at 11:08pm when the Supreme Court denied his request to reopen the case.

(AP/Photo Stephen Morton)

**GREG BLUESTEIN
Associated Press**

JACKSON, Ga. (AP) — The Supreme Court late Wednesday rejected an 11th-hour request to block the execution of Troy Davis, who convinced hundreds of thousands of people but not the justice system of his innocence in the murder of an off-duty police officer. Davis was executed at 11:08pm after the Supreme Court denied his request to reopen the case.

The court did not comment on its order, which came four hours after it received the request. Davis' execution had been set to begin at 7 p.m., but the high court's decision was not issued until after 10 p.m. The execution was to move forward, but state officials were not expected to make an announcement until after it was over. Though Davis' attorneys say seven of nine key witnesses against him have disputed all or parts of their testimony, state and federal judges have repeatedly ruled against granting him a new trial. □

Americans freed from Iran prison begin trek home



Continued from front

The release came on the eve of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's previously scheduled address Thursday to the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting.

The families waited on the tarmac at a royal airfield near the main international airport in Oman's capital, Muscat. Also returning to Oman was Sarah Shourd, who was arrested with Bauer and Fattal but freed a year ago. She received a marriage proposal from Bauer while in prison.

At about 20 minutes before midnight, Fattal and Bauer — wearing jeans and casual shirts — raced down the steps from the blue-and-white plane. They made no statements to reporters before walking into the airport terminal building, which was guarded by security officials. The men appeared thin, but in good health.

"We're so happy we are free," Fattal told reporters in Oman. The two men made brief statements before leaving the airport with their families.

"Two years in prison is too long," Bauer said, and hoped their release from prison will also bring "freedom for political prisoners in America and Iran."

In many ways, the release was a mirror image of the scene last year when Shourd was freed on \$500,000 bail. That deal, too, was mediated by Oman, an Arabian penin-

sula sultanate with close ties to both Tehran and Washington. A statement from Oman said it hoped the release would lead to better ties between Iran and the U.S. The gray metal gates of Tehran's Evin prison finally opened for Shourd — as it did for her companions on Wednesday — as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was preparing for the spotlight in New York at the U.N.'s annual gathering of world leaders last year. He is scheduled to address the world body again Thursday.

Just a month ago, Bauer and Fattal — both 29 — were appealing their eight-year prison terms for espionage and illegal entry into Iran. They denied the charges and said they were merely hikers in Iraq's relatively peaceful Kurdistan region who wandered close to Iran's border.

The first hint of change came last week when Ahmadinejad said they could be released within days.

But then came the voice of the hard-line ruling clerics, who have waged a stinging campaign against the president and his allies in recent months as part of power struggle.

The clerics made it clear: Only they have the authority to set the timing and ground rules to release the men. After several days of halting progress, their defense attorney secured the necessary judicial approval for the bail on Wednesday. □

Palestinians pressed to drop UN bid

BEN FELLER
TAREK EL-TABLAWEY
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Furiously scrambling to head off a U.N. showdown, the United States warned world leaders Wednesday that trying to create a Palestin-

ians to drop their bid for recognition from the U.N. Security Council. But the U.S. threat to veto any such U.N. action loomed unmistakably.

"Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the United

each other. Various mediators searched for consensus for a diplomatic solution to preclude the showdown and revive peace talks.

Netanyahu thanked Obama for defending Israel, which fears that a Palestinian state drawn



President Barack Obama addresses the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011. Obama warned world leaders Wednesday that trying to create a Palestinian nation by simple decree instead of through hard negotiations is bound to fail as a shortcut to peace with Israel.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ian nation by simple decree instead of through hard negotiations is bound to fail as a shortcut to peace with Israel. Europeans pressed to defuse the dispute, too, France urging new talks within a month. Undeterred, the Palestinians pressed toward a formal bid for U.N. recognition that could bring the issue to a head on Friday.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, seen as a defining test of peace in modern times, overwhelmed other matters as members of the world body watched a crisis deepen before them.

A frustrated President Barack Obama declared to U.N. members that "there are no shortcuts" to peace, and he implored Israelis and Palestinians to restart direct talks. His influence limited and his hopes for a peace deal long stymied, Obama didn't directly call on the Palestin-

Nations," Obama told delegates. "If it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now." French President Nicolas Sarkozy backed a different solution to defuse the diplomatic crisis. He would have the Palestinians seek a lesser form of recognition at the U.N., while joining new peace talks with Israel. Sarkozy supported an observer state status for Palestine but not full U.N. membership for now. That idea would head off a Security Council vote and veto that he said would risk "engendering a cycle of violence in the Middle East."

The French president proposed a one-year timetable for Israel and the Palestinians to reach an accord. At the heart of the fight, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pursued support from other leaders but not

by the U.N. would include borders leaving the Jewish state vulnerable to attack. The United States is Israel's staunchest defender in demanding that direct talks are the only means to Palestinian statehood, a position that leaves Obama arguing against fast world endorsement of a Palestinian homeland he has repeatedly said he supports. Palestinian senior aide Saeb Erekat said the pursuit of full U.N. membership would not be slowed: "We will not allow any political maneuvering on this issue," he said. Beyond the public eye, U.S. and other officials began to concede that an effort to deter Palestinians from bringing the matter before the world body had failed, and the so-called Quartet of Mideast peace mediators worked on a deal intended to address the longstanding concerns of both sides. □

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Insider trading cases pack big punishment

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A stock trader dubbed the Octopussy because he reached for so much inside information was sentenced Wednesday to 10 years in prison, and a California



Former Galleon Group LLC trader Zvi Goffer enters Manhattan federal for his sentencing, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011, in New York.

(AP Photo/ Louis Lanzano)

finance researcher convicted in a separate but related insider trading case received a four-year prison term as two judges tried to send a stern warning to Wall Street. "Insider trading is very, very hard to detect. Because of that, it has to be dealt with harshly," U.S. District Judge Richard Sullivan said as he gave 34-year-old Zvi Goffer one of the longest prison terms ever handed down in an insider trading case. He added: "These crimes are not going to be tolerated, certainly not in my courtroom."

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff said it was important that each sentence send a tougher message to deter inside trading than previ-

ously thought necessary.

"It's hard to detect but easy to commit so the temptations are great," Rakoff said as he sentenced Winifred Jiau, 43, who has remained imprisoned for nine months because it was determined that the Taiwan-born researcher was a risk to flee. Still, the sentence was only half of what was called for by federal sentencing guidelines. The Israeli-born Goffer, who lives in Brooklyn, was convicted with two others in June in a conspiracy to pay bribes to coax confidential information out of two shady lawyers at a Manhattan firm. The arrests were part of what prosecutors called the biggest hedge fund insider trading case in history. In all, more than two dozen people have been convicted in the probe. The sentencing Wednesday came a week before the scheduled sentencing of Raj Rajaratnam, a one-time billionaire hedge fund founder who was convicted on insider trading charges earlier this year. Prosecutors say he made more than \$50 million through illegal trades and are seeking a prison term of more than 24 years.

When the charges against Rajaratnam and Goffer were announced in the fall of 2009, prosecutors said they had made unprecedented use of wiretaps, in part because white collar criminals were starting to use techniques to cover up their crimes that made them resemble common criminals. □

House kills spending bill with disaster aid

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a rebuke to GOP leaders, the House on Wednesday rejected a measure providing \$3.7 billion for disaster relief as part of a

Democrats and tea party Republicans.

Democrats were opposed because the measure contains \$1.5 billion in cuts to a government loan program to help car companies build fuel-

The outcome sends House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and his leadership team back to the drawing board as they seek to make sure the government doesn't shut down at the end of next week.

It also raises the possibility that the government's main disaster relief program could run out of money early next week for victims of Hurricane Irene and other disasters.

Earlier Wednesday, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the No. 2 Republican in the House, had confidently predicted the measure would pass. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has only a few days' worth of aid remaining in its disaster relief fund, lawmakers said. The agency already has held up thousands of longer-term rebuilding projects — repairs to sewer systems, parks, roads and bridges, for example — to conserve money to provide emergency relief to victims of recent disasters.

The looming shortage has been apparent for months, and the Obama White House was slow to request additional money. □



House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of Calif., right, joins House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Va., left, as they speak to reporters about President Obama's debt reduction plan and other issues, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, on Capitol Hill in Washington. In a rebuke to GOP leaders, the House on Wednesday rejected a measure providing \$3.7 billion for disaster relief as part of a bill to keep the government running through mid-November.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

bill to keep the government running through mid-November.

The surprise 230-195 defeat came at the hands of

efficient vehicles.

For their part, many GOP conservatives felt the underlying bill permits spending at too high a rate.

Islamic center near ground zero opens

KAREN ZRAICK
VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The developer of an Islamic cultural center that opened Wednesday evening near the site of the terrorist attacks that leveled the World Trade Center says the biggest error on the project was not involving the families of 9/11 victims from the

start.

People crowded into the center, where a small orchestra played traditional Middle Eastern instruments and a photo exhibit of New York children of different ethnicities lined the walls. The enthusiasm at the opening belied its troubled beginnings.

"We made incredible mistakes," Sharif El-Gamal told

The Associated Press in an earlier interview at in his Manhattan office.

The building at 51 Park Place, two blocks from the World Trade Center site, includes a mosque that has been open for two years. El-Gamal said the overall center is modeled after the Jewish Community Center on Manhattan's Upper West Side, where he lives. □

Siblings planned life in Mexico after spree

P. BANDA
Associated Press
WALSENBURG, Colorado
(AP) — A sister and two brothers had planned to head to Mexico with money stolen in a Georgia bank robbery, then obtain fraudulent documents and elude authorities before the trio, now accused in a cross-country crime spree, were caught in Colorado, a detective said.

The details in the case emerged during a hearing Tuesday, with Colorado Springs police Det. Larry Dyer saying the youngest of the three, Ryan Edward Dougherty, 21, told him that he hatched the idea the day he was sentenced to register as a sex offender. Dougherty had earlier been convicted of sending sexually explicit text messages to an 11-year-old girl.

"During the interview, he pretty much led me to believe that he was the mastermind of this plan," Dyer said.

Colorado District Judge Claude Appel ruled that prosecutors had enough evidence to place Dougherty, his brother Dylan Stan-

ley-Dougherty, 26, and their sister Lee Grace Dougherty, 29, on trial for crimes related to a high-speed chase and shootout during capture. The siblings are accused of robbing a bank in Georgia and shooting at police officers in Florida and Colorado. They're also suspected in two car thefts in Utah. The siblings haven't entered pleas. A scheduling conference was set for Friday. The search for the Doughertys ended Aug. 10 near Walsenburg, about 150 miles (240 kilometers) south of Denver, following a chase on Interstate 25. The chase began when the trio was spotted near Colorado City. An FBI agent testified Tuesday that the siblings were prepared for a gun battle and officers said they heard gunshots during the chase.

Agent Daniel Leyman said investigators found at least nine firearms in or near the siblings' car, including two AK-47-type rifles, two machine pistols, two shotguns and three handguns. All but one of the weapons was loaded. The Doughertys are ac-



Ryan Edward Dougherty, center, is surrounded by police as he leaves the courthouse in Walsenburg, Colo. after a preliminary hearing. Ryan, 21, and his sister Lee Grace Dougherty, 29, and brother Dylan Stanley-Dougherty, 26, are accused in a cross-country crime spree that began in Florida and ended with a police chase and gunplay in Colorado. The hearing for the siblings lasted eight hours on Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)

cused of firing an AK-47 at pursuing officers before running over spike strips, blowing a tire, rolling their vehicle and crashing into a guardrail. No officers were hit by the automatic weapon fire. Authorities said Lee Grace Dougherty was shot in the leg after getting out of the crashed vehicle and aiming a gun at an officer. Dyer and two FBI agents who interviewed the other

two siblings testified that all three told them they never intended to hurt police.

"The only reason (for firing at police) would be to disable a police officer's vehicle and not injure a police officer," Dyer said.

Both Dylan Dougherty and Lee Grace Dougherty said they fired at police in Florida. None of the siblings said who fired shots in Colorado. □

Texas sues EPA on air

P. KOLLIPARA
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WASHINGTON — Texas sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday in an effort to block a pending toxic-emissions rule that state officials say will cost jobs and raise the risk of electricity blackouts. State Attorney General Greg Abbott's office filed a petition for review of the regulation — the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule — in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, saying the state wasn't given enough time to comment on the rules since they were finalized in July.

"Abbott is deeply concerned about these new federal regulations' impact on the State of Texas, its electric grid and the Texans whose access to something as basic as electricity is threatened," Lauren Bean, a spokeswoman for Abbott, said in an emailed statement.

The rule, which goes into effect on Jan. 1, requires reductions in sulfur-dioxide and nitrogen-oxide emissions from power plants in 27 states including Texas.

The initial plan only required Texas to cut nitrogen-oxide emissions during smog season, but in July the final rules included sulfur-dioxide cuts for Texas as well.

The lawsuit comes as the Obama administration on Wednesday threatened to veto a Republican-sponsored House bill that would delay the cross-state rule and a mercury-pollution rule and require a new interagency committee to analyze the business and consumer impacts of several EPA rules. The House will likely pass the measure Friday, but it faces an uphill battle in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The suit says Texas' inclusion for sulfur-dioxide reductions in the cross-state rule was based on changes in the EPA modeling that the state didn't get a chance to comment on, including readings from a single air-quality monitoring station in Madison County, Ill. □

House panel boosts border funding and approves bill honoring slain ICE agent

GARY MARTIN
© 2011 San Antonio
Express-News

WASHINGTON — A House committee approved legislation Wednesday that honors slain Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Jaime Zapata and directs funding to law enforcement task forces on the U.S.-Mexico border. The bill, the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act of 2011, would distribute \$102 million to special law enforcement groups to crack down on organization crime that could create security threats along the border. Those teams currently operate under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security, which would distribute funds.

Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, said the bill provides "families and those living on the border peace of mind in knowing that the federal government is doing its part in ensuring their safety."

The bill was sponsored by Cuellar, Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, and Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas.

The bill was approved unanimously by the House Homeland Security Committee. There is no companion legislation in the Senate.

House lawmakers hope the measure will be included in a final bill authorizing spending for the Department of Homeland Security later this year.

Money to fund the new task forces is included in President Obama's blueprint for fiscal year 2012, which begins Oct. 1.

Zapata, 32, of Brownsville, Texas, was gunned down Feb. 15 by members of the Los Zetas drug cartel.

He and special agent Victor Avila were ambushed while traveling between Mexico City and Monterrey, near San Luis Potosi, in Mexico. Avila was wounded.

The agents were acting as consultants to Mexican authorities in the battle against the drug cartels.

Julian Zapata Espinoza, known as "El Piolin" or "Tweety Bird," was arrested in the killing and confessed to Mexican authorities. He is expected to be tried in the United States. The weapon used to kill the agent was traced to a U.S. resident in Dallas who currently faces gun trafficking charges.

The Zapata bill passed by the House committee would give Congress more authority in directing spending to 22 current units comprised of federal, state, local and foreign law enforcement agencies.

Those units are stationed along the U.S. borders with Mexico and Canada.

Called Border Enforcement Security Task Force teams, or BEST units, they are used by Homeland Security to combat border violence, using surveillance, technology and information sharing between federal, state and local agencies.

The first BEST unit was established in Laredo in 2006. □

Protesters vow to camp near Wall St. indefinitely

MEGHAN BARR

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a small granite plaza a block from the New York Stock Exchange, a group of 20-somethings in flannel pajama pants and tie-dyed T-shirts are plotting the demise of Wall Street as we know it.

They have been there since Saturday, sleeping on cardboard boxes, eating pizza and take-out dinners that were paid for by donations to their cause. There are only about 200 of them left now, though they started out 1,500 strong.

Welcome to the headquarters of "Occupy Wall Street," a place where topless women stood Wednesday morning on the corner shouting "I can't afford a shirt!" while construction workers eagerly snapped photos on their phones. A small group of the protesters wound their way through the streets of lower Manhattan escorted by police officers, blaring bullhorns and chanting "Resist! Stand Up! There comes a time when the people rise up!"

What, exactly, they are



A few hundred demonstrators protesting against corporations march from nearby Zucotti park to Wall Street amid heavy police presence in the Manhattan borough of New York. The demonstrators, who have been camping overnight in the park since Saturday, have been surrounded by police officers around the clock with at least 12 protestors arrested in recent days.

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

protesting is somewhat unclear. When asked what they are fighting, they gave a variety of responses ranging from Wall Street to global warming. On its website, the group proclaims: "We, the people of the United States of America, considering the crisis at hand,

now reassert our sovereign control of our land."

Sam Wood, an unemployed 21-year-old, said he was there because he doesn't think it's fair "the way that the rich get more breaks than the poor."

"What I really want to achieve is to educate people about what's going on with the economy right now," he said as he bumped into another protester waving an American flag. "A couple of the ways that we might be able to fix it, you know?"

A barricade was set up to protect the NYSE building as they marched past it. Some people in suits stopped in the street to gaze curiously at the scene in the plaza — a strange jumble of people carrying signs, playing snare drums and openly smoking marijuana on benches. □

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White supremacist executed for Texas dragging

MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) —

A white supremacist gang member was executed Wednesday evening for the infamous dragging death slaying of a black man. James Byrd Jr., 49, was chained to the back of a pickup truck and pulled whip-like to his death along a bumpy asphalt road in one of the most grisly hate crime murders in recent Texas history. Lawrence Russell Brewer, 44, was asked if he had any final words, to which he replied: "No. I have no final statement." A single tear hung on the edge of his right eye.

He was pronounced dead at 6:21 p.m., 10 minutes after the lethal drugs began flowing into his arms,



Lawrence Russell Brewer listens to the guilty verdict being read in his capital murder trial at the Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan, Texas in 1999. Brewer, 44, one of two purported white supremacists condemned for Byrd's death, was executed Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011 for participating in chaining Byrd to the back of a pickup truck, dragging the man along the road and dumping what was left of his shredded body outside a black church and cemetery.

(AP Photo/Butch Ireland, Pool)

both covered with intricate black tattoos. Brewer's parents and two of Byrd's sisters were in attendance.

Appeals to the courts for Brewer were exhausted and no last-day attempts to save his life were filed.

Besides Brewer, John William King, now 36, also was convicted of capital murder and sent to death row for Byrd's death, which shocked the nation for its brutality. King's conviction and death sentence remain under appeal. A third man, Shawn Berry, 36, received a life prison term.

"One down and one to go," Billy Rowles, the retired sheriff who first investigated the horrific scene, said. "That's kind of cruel but that's reality."

Byrd's sister, Clara Taylor, said someone from her

brother's family needed to be present to watch Brewer die so she was among witnesses in the death chamber.

"He had choices," she said Tuesday, referring to Brewer. "He made the wrong choices."

While the lethal injection wouldn't compare to the horrible death her brother endured, "Knowing you're going to be executed, that has to be a sobering thought," she said.

It was about 2:30 a.m. on a Sunday, June 7, 1998, when witnesses saw Byrd walking on a road not far from his home in Jasper, a town of more than 7,000 north-east of Houston. Many folks knew he lived off disability checks, couldn't afford his own car and walked where he needed to go. □

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U.S. warden's wife convicted

TIM TALLEY

Associated Press

MANGUM, Oklahoma (AP) — The wife of a former Oklahoma prison warden who disappeared with a convicted murderer only to be found living with him in Texas nearly 11 years later was found guilty Wednesday of helping him escape. Jurors visited the prison grounds where Bobbi Parker, 49, had lived with her husband, then returned to the Greer County Courthouse and determined she left willingly with Randolph Franklin Dial in 1994.

Parker did not testify, but after being found living with Dial in 2005 insisted he had kidnapped her and threatened to harm her two daughters if she tried to escape. District Judge Richard Darby set sentencing for Oct. 6. Parker faces 10 years in prison but the jury recommended just one. Oklahoma judges typically give significant weight to juror recommendations. Parker showed no reaction as the jury read the verdict shortly after 2 p.m. Her husband Randy, who still works for the Corrections Department, bowed his head as family members comforted him. □

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American gardens:

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MICHAEL TORTORELLO
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LOS ANGELES — The last time he appeared in a home-and-garden photo spread, Wade Graham was luxuriating in a redwood hot tub in the hills above Santa Barbara, Calif. His blond companion, perched on the lip of the tub, was wearing a green polka-dot bikini. She was trim, tan and girlish. In fact, she was a girl — Graham's 10-year-old sister, Lakin. Graham was 7. The year was 1974 and the image ran in *Better Homes & Gardens*. The hot tub was the ne plus ultra of his parents' modern ranch house, a baptismal font of the West Coast lifestyle, with its "outdoor rooms" and patio parties. Now 44, Graham recalls his family's California dream in "American Eden," an animated and ambitious history of four centuries of American gardens published earlier this year by Harper. Through the open glass doors, he writes, "guests sporting leather vests and mustaches enjoyed tumblers of wine and trays of hors d'oeuvres

that we've since forgotten: roasted water chestnuts or chicken livers wrapped in bacon, smoked oysters, cream puffs and crab dip." The hot-tub time machine lurched forward to a recent Saturday morning: Graham was standing in his own garden in the Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles, beneath a Bearss lime tree. The bountiful fruit "makes the best vodka tonic you've ever had in the world," he said. It's easy to imagine Graham, who hangs his shingle out as a garden designer, pitching this citrus to his Hollywood clients as a kind of carefree cocktail-party-in-a-tree. "I am not interested in gardening, basically," he said. By which he meant, the right kind of garden practically grows itself. But the handsome koa tree next to the front stair tells a different story. What kind of lazy gardener hikes 7,000 feet up the Hualalai Volcano, on the Big Island of Hawaii, to collect a cold-hardy seed? Who casually amasses three dozen aloes from southern Africa and likens his native plantings



Wade Graham, the author of "American Eden," in the garden of the California house that now belongs to his ex-wife, Mitie Tucker, in Los Angeles, Sept. 7, 2011. Graham favors good structure and exuberant color and flora in his design.
(Laure Joliet/The New York Times)

to a kind of Amazon ecosystem for butterflies and ground bees? (Who has even heard of a ground bee?) Beyond the \$30,000 he spent on grading and masonry, Graham created

this idyll almost single-handedly. So what gives? As he writes in the introduction to "American Eden," we ask our gardens "to speak for us, often

assigning them certain lines in the play that we write about ourselves that we are hesitant to utter in our own voices." "The drama of self-creation isn't straightforward," he continues, "but full of deviations, diversions, dodges and impersonations." In other words, a garden can be a complicated place. And Wade Graham's garden is more complicated than most. For one thing, it belongs to his ex-wife. On this particular morning, the home was empty. Its owner, Mitie Tucker, a 44-year-old event producer whose clients include Gucci, Prada and Barneys New York, was vacationing with the couple's two children on Fishers Island in New York. □

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Afghan assassination dashes peace hopes



A woman walks past a poster of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani during a rally in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday Sept. 21, 2011 after he was killed by a blast the previous day. The suicide bomber who assassinated Rabbani insisted on meeting face-to-face with the ex-president and waited in Kabul for days to talk with him about brokering peace with the Taliban, an associate of Rabbani's said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

PATRICK QUINN
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The assassination of a former Afghan president reflects the dangers of negotiations with the Taliban: Any effort toward a peace deal can bring deadly action to stop it from factions within the multi-

headed insurgency. Now supporters of the slain Burhanuddin Rabbani angrily warned on Wednesday that there is no hope in seeking negotiations, a key policy of President Hamid Karzai that the United States has backed. Afghans in-

involved in peace efforts are fearful of reaching out to anyone within the Taliban and risk being targeted themselves.

Many fear such assassinations could accelerate as the Taliban and other insurgents try to bolster their positions ahead of a planned withdrawal of U.S. and other international combat forces at the end of 2014.

"How are we supposed to negotiate with these wild devils?" said the governor of northern Balkh province, Atta Mohammad Noor. "We need peace, but peace with who? We want peace with people who know the value of peace."

"The Taliban are not sympathetic. They are killing our people. They killed our leader — Rabbani. We don't want to waste time with these types of people," he told The Associated Press. The 70-year-old Rabbani was the leader of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance, which helped overthrow Taliban rule in the country. He headed the country's High Peace Council, set up by Karzai to work toward a political solution to the decade-long war. It has made little headway since it was formed a year ago, but it is backed by many in the international community as helping move toward a settlement. Rabbani was killed in his Kabul home Tuesday evening by a suicide attacker with a bomb in his turban, who gained entry by convincing officials including Karzai's advisers that he was a Taliban leader wanting to reconcile. The U.S.-led coalition said another attacker was also involved, but that could not be confirmed by Afghan officials. The Interior Ministry said one person had been detained in connection with Rabbani's death — the driver of the car who took the bomber to Rabbani's house. Noor said the driver was found with incriminating documents, but did not reveal further details. □

US ambassador returns to Libya

KIM GAMEL

Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to Libya returned to Tripoli Wednesday to lead a newly reopened American Embassy in a post-Moammar Gadhafi era. Ambassador Gene Cretz arrived in Tripoli, a day before plans to raise the

ons of mass destruction and payment of compensation to the families of victims of 1980s terror attacks, including the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, blamed on Libyan agents.

Cretz had kept a relatively low profile in Libya until November, when WikiLeaks posted his assessments of



A female Libyan artist works on a wall on the streets of Tripoli, Libya Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011. The U.S. ambassador to Libya returned to Tripoli Wednesday to lead a newly reopened American Embassy in a post-Moammar Gadhafi era.

(AP Photo/Abdel Magid al Fergany)

U.S. flag over the embassy building in the Libyan capital. It was about eight months after he left for consultations in Washington in January after WikiLeaks posted his opinions of Gadhafi's personal life and habits in a classified 2009 diplomatic cable. At the time, the Obama administration was considering replacing him due in part to strains in ties caused by the blunt assessment. Cretz returns to a country much changed since revolutionary forces seized control of Tripoli and forced the authoritarian leader into hiding after an uprising that began in mid-February.

Cretz was nominated to be the first U.S. ambassador to Libya in 36 years by President George W. Bush in July 2007 after a remarkable turnaround in U.S. relations with the North African nation.

The seismic shift in ties followed Gadhafi's 2003 renunciation of weap-

Gadhafi's personal life and habits in a classified 2009 diplomatic cable.

The secret document said Gadhafi "appears to have an intense dislike or fear of staying on upper floors, reportedly prefers not to fly over water, and seems to enjoy horse racing and flamenco dancing." It also discussed Gadhafi's longtime reliance on a Ukrainian nurse named Galyna who the cable said had been described as a "voluptuous blonde."

President Barack Obama announced Tuesday that the ambassador would return, telling Libyans: "This is your chance. And today the world is saying, with one unmistakable voice, we will stand with you."

The United States, along with its NATO allies, launched the military air campaign that helped rout Gadhafi's forces after the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution in March authorizing a no-fly zone and approving all necessary steps needed to protect civilians. NATO later took charge of the mission. □



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Typhoon buffets Tokyo, dumps rain in tsunami zone

YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A powerful typhoon slammed into Japan Wednesday, halting trains and leaving 13 people dead or missing in south-central regions before grazing a crippled nuclear plant and heaping rain on the tsunami-ravaged northeast. Officials at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, where engineers are still struggling with small radiation leaks due to tsunami damage, expressed relief that Typhoon Roke's driving winds and rain caused no immediate problems there other than a broken security camera. "The worst seems to be over," said Takeo Iwamoto, spokesman for plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co., after the storm passed just west of the plant on its way north.

But the typhoon brought new misery to the north-eastern region already slammed by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, dumping up to 17 inches (42 centimeters) of rain in some areas. Authorities warned of a high risk of mudslides in that region. Hundreds of tsunami survivors in government shelters in the Miyagi state town of Onagawa were forced to evacuate for fear of flooding. More than 200,000 households in central Japan were without electricity late Wednesday. Police and local media reported 13 people dead or missing in southern and central regions, many of them believed swept away by rivers swollen with rains. The storm, packing sustained winds of up to 100 mph (162 kph), made



A woman struggles in strong wind and rain caused by approaching typhoon in Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011. The powerful typhoon was bearing down on Japan's tsunami-ravaged northeastern coast Wednesday, approaching a nuclear power plant crippled in that disaster and prompting calls for the evacuation of more than a million people.

(AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama)

landfall in the early afternoon near the city of Hamamatsu, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) west of Tokyo. The fast-moving storm went past the capi-

tal in the evening and then headed up into the northeast, where it was losing strength. In Tokyo, where many rush hour commuter trains were suspended,

thousands of commuters trying to rush home were stuck at stations across the sprawling city. "The hotels in the vicinity are all booked up, so I'm waiting for the bullet train to restart," Hiro-mu Harada, a 60-year-old businessman, said dejectedly at Tokyo Station. Fire department officials reported three people injured in Tokyo.

In the trendy shopping district of Shibuya, winds knocked a tree onto a sidewalk, but no one was hurt. Pedestrians struggled to walk straight in powerful winds that made umbrellas useless. At the Fukushima plant, engineers are still working to stabilize the reactors six months after three of them melted down when the tsunami disabled the plant's power and back-up generators. □

Syrian security storms school

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian security forces moved against several schools around the country Wednesday and detained students who demonstrated against President Bashar Assad's regime, while troops shot dead at least four people in central Syria, activists said. The Local Coordination Committees, an activist network, said dozens of students were detained in the southern village of Jassem. Also, security forces surrounded several schools in the Damascus suburbs of Harasta, Arbeen and Zalmalka. Students have been demonstrating against Assad's regime since Sun-

day, the first day of the school year. The London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said security forces killed three civilians in the central city of Homs and one in the nearby town of Rastan. It reported that the bodies of three other people who disappeared last week were also either found or handed to their families by authorities in the northern province of Idlib and the central region of Hama. President Barack Obama called on the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Syria because of the deadly crackdown. He told the U.N. General As-

sembly Wednesday, "There is no excuse for inaction." Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country is considering sanctions and is coordinating its policy with the U.S. Turkey neighbors Syria and is a key trading partner. Turkey's state-run Anatolia news agency quoted Erdogan as saying. "We never wanted things to arrive at this point, but unfortunately, the Syrian administration has forced us to take such a decision." The Syrian uprising began in mid-March, during the wave of protests in the Arab world that toppled autocrats in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. □

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FBI Director visits Pakistan

MUNIR AHMED
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — FBI Director Robert Mueller visited Pakistan Wednesday as tensions between the two countries spike over U.S. demands that Islamabad crack down on Afghan militants it alleges find shelter on Pakistani soil.

A Pakistani government statement said that Mueller met with Interior Minister Rehman Malik in Pakistan's capital of Islamabad for talks on how to bolster counterterrorism cooperation.

U.S. officials declined to discuss the visit, which comes one day after both countries agreed to limit the number of American troops in Pakistan.

Uneasy relations between the United States and Pakistan further soured this year, particularly after U.S. marines killed Osama bin Laden May 2 in Pakistan without coordinating the attack with officials there first. Islamabad has also expressed anger with American drone strikes into the country, which have killed wanted militants as well as civilians. Pakistani leaders see the U.S. military actions inside Pakistan as violations of its sovereignty. □

Venezuela, Cuba defend Iran's nuclear program

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran was praised and Israel criticized Wednesday at a 151-nation meeting, with Cuba and Venezuela defending Tehran's right to run a nuclear program and Syria saying the Jewish state's undeclared nuclear arsenal is a threat to world peace.

The two Latin American nations are among Tehran's greatest supporters and Washington's strongest detractors, depicting it as the leader of privileged nations seeking to deprive developing countries of nuclear power and other benefits. Syria, too is at odds with the U.S., and is the most vocal Arab critic of Israel.

While the West sees Tehran as the greatest nuclear threat in the Mideast, Islamic countries assert that Israel and its undeclared atomic arsenal represents the most pressing danger to the region.

Since the start of the conference Monday, Iran has borne the brunt of criticism, with Western countries condemning its refusal to heed U.N. Security Council demands to stop activities that it could turn into making nuclear weapons and to open its program to greater IAEA perusal.

But Israel is due to come under pressure later in the week from Islamic and other developing countries for refusing to declare its nuclear weapons status and

because it remains outside the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Wednesday's statements

be subjected to the international control and supervision ... does not only threaten the region, but the

they be accompanied by moves to establish peace in the region and Arab insistence that the two issues



Activist of 'stop the bomb' demonstrate against the Iranian regime before the general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. Iran was praised and Israel criticized Wednesday at a 151-nation meeting, with Cuba and Venezuela defending Tehran's right to run a nuclear program and Syria saying the Jewish state's undeclared nuclear arsenal is a threat to world peace. (AP Photo/Ronald Zak)

served as a prelude to the shifting focus from Iran to Israel — and hinted at the difficulties ahead come November, when Israel and its interlocutors come to the table in Vienna at an IAEA-hosted forum for preliminary talks on a Mideast nuclear arms-free zone.

Israel's "huge nuclear capabilities, which are yet to

whole world at large," Syrian Ambassador Bassam Sabbagh told the meeting. "Israel is behind the failure of all initiatives" meant to move toward the creation of a nuclear free Mideast, he added.

For more than a decade, talks on creating such a zone have been stalled by Israel's insistence that

are separate.

Syria too is under IAEA perusal, with the agency's 35-nation board reporting it to the Security Council earlier this year after IAEA chief Yukiya Amano assessed that a site bombed in 2007 by Israel warplanes was a nearly completed plutonium-producing reactor. □

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Dumping of 35 bodies seen as challenge to Zetas



Mexican army soldiers patrol near the site where state prosecutors will gather for a convention in the Gulf port city of Veracruz, Mexico Wednesday Sept. 21, 2011. A day earlier, near the convention site, a gang of gunmen dumped 35 bodies during rush hour traffic on a busy avenue in front of horrified motorists. Authorities said they believe the bound, semi-nude, tortured bodies are of people connected with the Zetas cartel, whose presence has grown in the state of Veracruz.

(AP Photo/Felix Marquez)

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A gang aligned with Mexico's most wanted drug lord may be delivering a gruesome challenge to the ruling cartel and Mexican officials in the Gulf state of Veracruz, by dumping 35 bodies on a busy avenue in front of horrified motorists and near where the nation's top prosecutors were about to start a convention. Authorities said Wednesday

they believe the bound, seminude, tortured bodies unloaded by gunmen during rush hour Tuesday were people connected with the Zetas cartel, whose presence has grown in the state since a crackdown began last year in their main base of Tamaulipas to the north. A dozen of the victims were women, the state attorney general said.

While Mexican officials would not say who carried out the attack, a banner left at the scene threat-

ened the Zetas and bore the initials "G.N." A U.S. law enforcement official said that appeared to refer to a group tied to Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, widely considered the world's wealthiest drug trafficker. But the official, who could not be quoted by name for security reasons, also said it would be surprising to see heavy involvement in Veracruz by Guzman's Sinaloa cartel, which is based in the Pacific coast state of the same name on the other side of Mexico.

Drug trafficking in Veracruz was long controlled by the Gulf Cartel.

But the business has been taken over by the Zetas, who had acted as enforcers for the Gulf Cartel before breaking away in early 2010 and waging a bloody war with their former allies across northeastern Mexico.

"We don't have anything that corroborates or disputes" that the body dumping was linked to Guzman, the U.S. official said, adding that other sources say the Gulf Cartel could have been responsible. "Sometimes these criminal groups blame the other guys."

Security expert Raul Benitez agreed it could be possible, however, because

Guzman is forming alliances to attack the Zetas in other parts of Mexico. He said Guzman is seeking both to control territory and to punish the Zetas for attacking civilians, something that is shunned by most drug traffickers and that has ramped up government heat on all cartels. Veracruz, with its major port, is a key route for cocaine passing through Mexico from Guatemala

en route to Texas.

The Zetas have been blamed in two of Mexico's biggest mass killings of civilians since the federal government stepped up a crackdown on organized crime in 2006: the massacre last year of 72 migrants in Tamaulipas and a casino fire last month in the northern industrial city of Monterrey that killed 52 people, mostly women playing bingo and slot machines. □

Colombia seizes assets linked to Mexican kingpin

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombian police have seized 301 properties, including houses, vehicles and estates, that belonged to alleged front men for Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the head of Mexico's powerful Sinaloa drug cartel, police said Wednesday. About 500 officers participated in the operation in the capital of Bogota and five other districts of Colombia and seized about \$250 million in assets, said Gen. Carlos Mena of Colombia's investigations police.

Mena said officers targeted members of the Cifuentes Villa gang, which has

worked with Guzman to transport cocaine and launder money. He said that the property seized Tuesday will be sold or otherwise used to help victims of Colombia's internal conflicts and people affected by last year's intense rains. Mena said police in Mexico, Panama and Ecuador also launched operations targeting property belonging to the Mexican kingpin, but gave no details. Authorities in Colombia, Mexico and the United States have been collaborating this year to target property belonging to drug gang members. In

May, Colombian authorities seized 135 properties, including front companies, of the Cifuentes Villa gang, Mena said.

Colombian police official Jorge Milton said the gang sprang from the Cifuentes Villa family, which joined Guzman to coordinate illegal shipments through import companies around the Western Hemisphere.

Authorities estimate the 56-year-old Guzman has a fortune worth more than \$1 billion. The U.S. State Department has offered a reward of \$5 million for information leading to his capture. □

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STARTING NEXT WEEK SEPTEMBER 29 - THE DEBT



The modular home of Rob Bristow and his wife and architectural partner, Pilar Proffitt, in New York, Sept. 13, 2011. Proffitt and Bristow live there with their children Grace, 11; Sam, 5; and Ellis, 8. (Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

A premade house, with additions

ELAINE LOUIE

© 2011 New York Times

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — Pilar Proffitt and Robert Bristow are partners in Poesis, a Connecticut firm known for its residential, interior and furniture design. So two years ago, when the couple decided they wanted a loftlike home for themselves and their three children, they drew up the plans themselves and sent them out to builders for estimates.

But they weren't expecting the bids to come in at almost \$1 million. So they went with the next-best option: a prefabricated home.

They bought the house, "a skeleton that had all the wiring, outlets, plumbing, pipes and electrical," from Segalla's TurnKey Housing in Canaan, Conn., said Bristow, 49. "We then built out the remaining parts of the house: windows, doors, lighting, built-ins, bathrooms, kitchen, flooring, baseboard, trim, window and door details, roofing, overhang details, carport and landscaping."

The total cost was \$493,422, including \$250,625 for the modular shell. (The price per square foot was about \$137, a figure that does not include the kitchen, which Bristow built himself, or their furniture, a mix of their own

designs, refurbished hand-me-downs and vintage store finds.)

As Proffitt, 44, observed, "The modular house has advantages: 120 workers

erty, which they bought in 2005.

So they took care to erase the telltale signs, beginning with the foundation. A custom house can be fit-



The modular home of Rob Bristow and his wife and architectural partner, Pilar Proffitt, in New York, Sept. 13, 2011. Bristow made most of the living room furniture, including the white oak and slate coffee table.

(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

will build your house in five days in a factory," and it arrives "at its appointed hour, or there will be penalties." Sure enough, at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 15, 2010, four trailers pulled up to the site, each carrying a box 12 feet wide and 60 feet long. By 5 p.m., the house was set up, and the workers were gone.

Advantages aside, the couple didn't want the house to look prefabricated. They wanted it to sit comfortably beside the dairy barn and the two silos on the prop-

erty, which they bought in 2005. So they took care to erase the telltale signs, beginning with the foundation. A custom house can be fit-

ted to the land, while most modular houses look as if they were dropped from a crane (which they were). Bristow and Proffitt created a base of aged granite curbstone that made their house look like it was part of the landscape. They rejected claddings like vinyl or cedar siding, choosing horizontal pine siding "for a smooth look like the really old houses," said Proffitt, referring to nearby homes built in the 19th century. □

Developers cater to two-wheeled traffic

LINDA BAKER

© 2011 New York Times

PORTLAND, Ore. — Christian Ettinger, the owner of Hopworks Urban Brewery here, is a longtime bicycle enthusiast. He grew up riding around the Portland suburb of Lake Oswego, and now owns six bicycles — "two if my wife is asking" — and races in cyclocross events. So when he decided to open a second brewpub this summer, he settled on a location that reflected his passion: North Williams Avenue, one of the most-used commuter cycling corridors in a city already mad for all things two-wheeled. Some 3,000 riders a day pass by Ettinger's new brewpub, which he calls the Hopworks BikeBar.

It has racks for 75 bicycles and free locks, to-go entrees that fit in bicycle water bottle cages, and dozens of handmade bicycle frames suspended over the bar areas. Portland is nationally recognized as a leader in the movement to create bicycle-friendly cities.

About 7 percent of commuters here travel by bike (the national average is under 1 percent) and the city has



An indoor bike rack at EcoFlats, an 18-unit rental apartment building with a 30-unit bicycle rack in the lobby but no dedicated vehicle parking, in Portland, Ore. Establishments throughout the city provide amenities and services to customers and residents who are bike enthusiasts, making Portland a leader in the movement to create bicycle-friendly cities.

(Daniel Pasley/The New York Times)

an ambitious plan, adopted last year, to increase that proportion to 25 percent by 2030.

Until recently, Portland's bike initiatives focused on improving the transportation infrastructure, said Roger Geller, the city's bicycle coordinator. But as businesses awakened to the purchasing power of cyclists, "bicycle-supported developments" are also beginning to appear around town, Geller said.

These are residential and commercial projects built near popular bikeways and outfitted with cycling-related services and amenities.

"The change is coming from the private sector," Geller said. "Cyclists are a great potential market for businesses that want people traveling at human-scale speed and will stop and buy something."

The North Williams business cluster, located about 2 miles northeast of downtown, is the most prominent example of this type of development. In addition to the BikeBar at 3907 North Williams, a two-block stretch of the street houses the United Bicycle Institute, which teaches bike repair and frame building, at No. 3961; the Friendly Bike Guest House, a hostel that caters to cyclists, at No. 4039; and EcoFlats, an 18-unit rental apartment building with a 30-unit bicycle rack in the lobby but no dedicated vehicle parking. □



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I would like to introduce myself to you. I am one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. My story is very sad, because my baby was killed by a car in Seroe Compa. It is very dangerous for stray donkeys on the island because of all the traffic everywhere. I brayed the entire day, a kind of crying for a donkey. A very kind lady called the Donkey Sanctuary and they came right away. They lured me into the lady's garden with lovely carrots and then I was put into a trailer. I came to the Sanctuary in a haze of sadness. But there the volunteers and the other donkeys took care of me. The volunteers are trying to cover the various costs with all kinds of activities and the sale of great donkey memorabilia in the shop. Fortunately, there are also visitors who wish to adopt a donkey, who buy something at the donkey shop or who make a donation. Thus they help support us. The volunteers of the sanctuary are hoping that somebody will adopt this friendly, lovely donkey. Of course the donkey will keep on living at the sanctuary; you only need to pay AWG. 30,- per month for the donkey's keep. With this amount you help support the sanctuary as well as your own donkey. So please call the sanctuary at 593-2933; you can also register via the website www.arubandonkey.org or donate money on bank account number 40.03.025 at the Aruba Bank! Just do it! □

Michael Bolton kicks of 2011 Aruba Music Explosion tonight



PIEDRA PLAT – Tonight, Michael Bolton will headline the Aruba Music Explosion with a double set in the Piedra Plat Festival Grounds. Unfortunately, Air Supply had to cancel due to unexpected circumstances. Tickets are still available, check with your concierge. Bolton is a former hard rock singer, but is best known for his soft rock ballads and tenor/countertenor vocals. His achievements include selling eight top 10 albums, achieving two number one singles on the Billboard charts, and receiving awards from both the American Music Awards and Grammy Awards.

Early life

Bolton was born Michael Bolotin in New Haven, Connecticut, the son of Helen (Gubin) and George Bolotin. He has a brother, Orrin, and a sister, Sandra, both older. His family was Jewish, and all of his grandparents had been immigrants from Russia. His parents were divorced when he was very young and his father died when Michael was 13 years old.

Career as a Musician

Bolton began recording in 1975. This first album was self-titled using his original surname, Bolotin. Early in his musical career, he focused on hard rock. His band, Blackjack, once toured with heavy metal singer

Ozzy Osbourne.

Michael gained his first major hit as a songwriter, co-writing "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You" for Laura Branigan, previously best-known for singing the pop hit "Gloria". Narrowly missing the Top 10 on the US pop chart, Branigan took the song to number one on the Adult Contemporary chart for three weeks in 1983. The two sought to work with each other again, and their next collaboration was when Bolton co-wrote "I Found Someone" for Branigan in 1985. Her version was only a minor hit, but two years later, Cher resurrected the song, and with it her own singing career. Bolton co-

wrote several other songs for both singers.

Bolton would achieve his greatest success in the late 1980s and early 1990s as a singer on the adult contemporary/easy listening charts. One of his first major hits was his 1987 interpretation of the Otis Redding classic, "(Sittin' On) the Dock of the Bay." Always interested in soul and Motown classics, Bolton's success with that song encouraged him to tackle the standard "Georgia On My Mind," with which he had another hit. In 1991, Bolton released the album *Time, Love & Tenderness* which featured his Grammy Award winning cover version of "When a Man Loves a Woman". □

International Peace Day commemorated in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – About one-hundred students from two elementary schools, Pieter Boer in San Nicolas and Pius X in Oranjestad, were guests of Fundacion Respeta Bida, Semper Corda, at Wilhelmina Park in the gardens surrounding the Anne Frank's statue. The purpose of the gathering was to educate students on the significance of peace and to make them part of a constructive community that builds a better future for Aruba. Foundation President Diana Pieters-Gonzalez, welcomed the students on behalf of the foundation explaining the foundation promotes respect for all people and wishes for all human-beings to be living in peace across cultures, religions, nationalities and ways of thinking. She reiterated that chil-



dren are the future of the island and that Aruba will become a reflection of its younger generation. On the International Day of Peace the gathering at the Anne Frank statue reminded everyone that while Aruba never knew war, the island is still familiar with fighting between people, and exchanges of harsh words, leading to the conclusion that peace begins at home, with mutual love and appreciation. "Start

living in peace at home, with your family members and friends, at school, in your daily life, and you will contribute to a better world," Pieters advised. Musical director Maybeline Arends-Croes and her choir of lovely singers gave an excellent presentation of We Are the World, followed by Een Beetje Vrede and Que Canten Los Ninos, in three languages symbolizing Aruba's multi-linguistic culture.

The children also helped plant a Carob tree, and an Olive tree, a symbol of peace, both sent from Israel to Aruba in order to be planted on the International Peace Day tribute.

A dramatic folk-story telling followed by a talented youth duo under the direction of Desiree Correa and Munye Oduber Winklaar, just before the group was invited to the Renaissance Convention Center where it created a Peace Tree, hanging with paper Peace Doves. A number of children were escorted by Diana Pieters to the office of Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman, across the way to deliver letters they wrote, brimming with their suggestions on how to improve the



world in general and Aruba in particular. Several letters also went to other government dignitaries, organizations and groups, with concerns about the environment, suggestions for living in harmony, proposals for conservation projects and

other concerns children had regarding respect and tolerance. The event concluded with refreshments. Each child received a special commemorative tee shirt and a booklet, with the lyrics of the songs they've learned. □



Official Ceremony Marks La Cabana's 20th Anniversary Celebration



EAGLE BEACH – During the short yet memorable ceremony celebrating the 20th anniversary of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, Bill Mosconi, President of the Board of Directors spoke briefly about the courage it took to commence renovations mid economic downturn and the great sense of satisfaction currently shared by members of the board and members of management over the results of the successful undertaking. General Manager Joe Najjar thanked members of the

board for believing in the project from the very start and authorizing the \$38 million budget, as well as additional \$8 million in 2012. "This is a true testament to the commitment of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club owners to the resort and their loyalty to Aruba," he stated. Following a special associate recognition ceremony Barney Barber, Vice President, BlueGreen Corporation addressed the audience praising the past seventeen years of close collaboration between BlueGreen Corporation

and La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, wishing the resort much future success, in its five-star positioning. David Callaghan, VP Interval International presented the resort with a special en-



graved plaque in recognition of its commitment to delivering quality vacation experiences and in celebration of the 20th anniversary. Prime Minister Mike Eman used the opportunity to reflect on the fact that the resort is most popular

among visitors but also top on the list for locals, attesting for the resort's cordiality and true spirit of hospitality. He praised the decision to invest in renovations while still offering great vacations to guests and likened the resort to the island of Aru-

ba, which is also at the moment undergoing great infrastructural improvements. The premier was presented with a souvenir plaque, engraved with a dedication from all resort associates, as the official part of the presentation concluded. □

Radisson Colleagues enjoy a Family Day at the Beach



ARASHI -- The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa hosted a fun family day on the beach at Arashi this past weekend. Picnic tables and chairs were set up on the sugar white sand, under shady white tents, inviting family members of all ages to relax in community, over delicious BBQ lunch, entertained by a professional DJ. Lunch was served by members of management who also poured cold drinks from under the bar tent allowing all col-

league to frolic in the waves and join their children for tug of war and other beach Olympic games. General Manager Rob Smith reports Family Day was well attended, celebrating the end of the Summer, resting and unwinding just before the big rush, with the much-anticipated reopening of the refreshed Aruba Tower in the Fall. Pictured here fun in the sun for the Radisson colleagues. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



PLAYOFF BOUND



Yankees rally by Rays, clinch postseason

New York Yankees' Curtis Granderson, left, Brett Gardner, center, and Chris Dickerson leap into the air to celebrate their 4-2 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in the first baseball game of a doubleheader on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press
Page 21



New York Giants defensive back Deon Grant is helped up by trainers during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams on Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

NFL memo warns teams on faking injuries

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL sent a memo Wednesday to all 32 teams warning of fines, suspensions and loss of draft picks if the league determines players faked injuries during a game.

Yet several players admit it's an accepted practice, and some coaches hinted they are not above condoning phony injuries if it provides a competitive edge. "I've been places where it has been (taught)," said Browns linebacker Scott Fujita, a member of the players' union executive committee. "They have a name for it and I've been places where it's been pre-called. I've been places where it's one player who has been designated. Maybe I'm getting everyone in trouble, but I'm just being honest." In the memo obtained by The Associated Press, the NFL reminded teams of league policy that calls on coaches to discourage the practice.

Continued on Next Page

NFL**Continued from Front Page**

There is no specific rule on the topic.

Nonetheless, two days after there was speculation the Giants' Deon Grant faked an injury against the Rams during Monday night's game, the NFL is warning of disciplinary action.

"It's always been in the game," Ravens All-Pro safety Ed Reed said. "It's all tactical stuff you need to use. Whatever it takes. ... If you're tired, you're tired. You get a break however you can."

Added 49ers running back Frank Gore: "Hey, I feel if it helps, do it. I'm bound to do it. Whatever it takes to win ..."

Rams coach Steve Spagnuolo said Tuesday the team notified the league office that it suspected the Giants were feigning injuries in St. Louis' 28-16 loss. Rams quarterback Sam Bradford said it was obvious the Giants were just buying time



St. Louis Rams coach Steve Spagnuolo talks with referee Terry McAulay (77) during the first quarter of the Rams' NFL football game against the New York Giants on Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

with St. Louis running a no-huddle offense.

"They couldn't get subbed, they couldn't line up," Bradford said. "Someone said, 'Someone go down, someone go down,' so someone just went down and grabbed a cramp."

Grant was adamant about not having faked anything. "I could see if I was walking and fell," he said Wednes-

day, speaking passionately and barely taking a breath.

"When you see after I made that tackle and bang my knee on that play, you see me bending my knee as I am walking. ... (Team-mate Justin) Tuck is walking behind me and saying 'D don't run off the field. Just go down.' As I am walking, they line up, and knowing that I can't get back in my

position because of the knee injury, I went down." Had Grant attempted to get off the field, it could have left the Giants a defender short when the ball was snapped. Of course, New York also could have called a timeout, a course of action teams might need to use in the future. Redskins coach Mike Shanahan was coy about the tactic when asked if he ever instructed a defense to do it.

"I can't say I have," Shanahan said before pausing. "But I won't say I haven't, either."

Then he smiled.

"It happens all the time, and warnings will come out," he added, "and it's happened again."

The memo from the league said:

"Going forward, be advised that should the league office determine that there is reasonable cause, all those suspected of being involved in faking injuries will be summoned promptly to this office ... to discuss

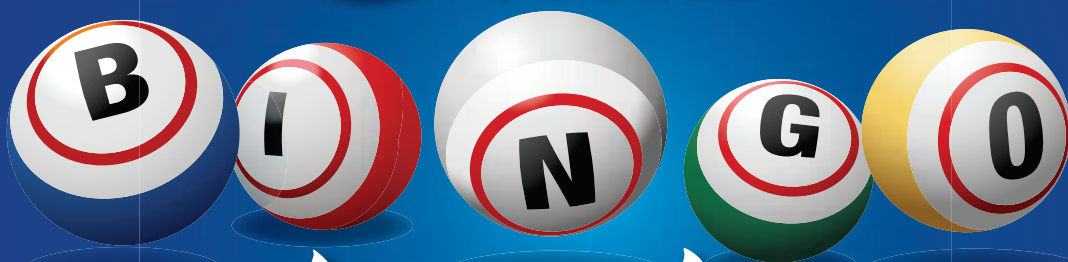
the matter. Those found to be violators will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action for conduct detrimental to the game."

The league's competition committee often has discussed this issue but has been reluctant to propose a rule that could force game officials to make judgments on injuries.

"We have been fortunate that teams and players have consistently complied with the spirit of the rule over the years and this has not been an issue for the NFL," the memo said. "We are determined to take all necessary steps to ensure that it does not become an issue."

For the most part, such delay tactics have been considered gamesmanship, similar to a hockey goalie suddenly needing equipment repairs when his team is getting besieged. Or untouched soccer players writhing on the ground in pain to get a stoppage — and to slow momentum built by the other side. □

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Tony Martin wins men's time trial world title

JAN M. OLSEN

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Tony Martin of Germany led from start to finish to win the men's time trial at the road cycling world championship on Wednesday ahead of Bradley Wiggins of Britain and Fabian Cancellera of Switzerland. Martin, a two-time bronze medalist in time trial, finished the 28.77-mile flat circuit through Copenhagen in 53 minutes, 42.85 seconds — a full 1 minute, 15 seconds ahead of Wiggins. Cancellera, a four-time time trial champion, dropped to third after a strong start, finishing in 55:04.44 seconds. Martin was so dominant he even passed Russian rider Mikhail Ignatyev, who had started three minutes before him. Martin had an average speed of 32.2 mph, beating



A spectator waves a German flag, left, as new world champion Tony Martin of Germany, right, heads towards the finish line in the last hundred meters rides of the elite men time trial over 28.8 miles with start and finish in Copenhagen, Denmark, Wednesday Sept. 21, 2011.

Associated Press

Cancellera's 2009 record of 51.6 kilometers per hour. Toward the end of the race, "I was so sure that I would win, I had a good feeling," Martin said. "Now a dream came true." Martin, who won an individual time trial at this year's Tour de France, had a lead of more than

a minute by the 34-kilometer mark, and it only grew from there. Cancellera had some trouble on one of the cobblestone sections by the Amalienborg Palace, home of the Danish royals, where he ran into the barriers on the second lap through the capital. □

Augustus leads Lynx to 1st playoff series victory

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—

The Minnesota Lynx bulldozed the rest of the WNBA in the regular season, rarely tested while posting a 27-7 record that was six games better than the next closest team. The San Antonio Silver Stars gave the No. 1 seed in the playoffs all they could handle in the first round, and that's just what the Lynx say they needed. Seimone Augustus had 22 points and the Lynx beat the Silver Stars 85-67 on Tuesday night for the first playoff series victory in franchise history. "I'm extremely happy that we were tested in the first round because you want to have an attitude of urgency throughout the playoffs," said Taj McWilliams-Franklin, who scored 16 points. "I think this put us back



Minnesota Lynx guard Seimone Augustus (33) takes a shot against the San Antonio Silver Stars in the second half of Game 3 of a first-round WNBA playoff basketball series, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

on our heels, the first two games, and now we can be prepared for the level that each team is going to play with against us." Rebekkah Brunson added 15 points and nine rebounds and Maya Moore had 14 points, six rebounds and four assists for the Lynx, who advance to play the Phoenix Mercury in the Western Conference finals. □

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This April 8, 2010 file photo shows Dallas Stars' Mike Modano celebrating after scoring in the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Anaheim Ducks, in Dallas.

Associated Press

Mike Modano retires after 21 seasons in NHL

LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

One of the greatest American hockey players is hanging up his skates for good. Mike Modano announced Wednesday that he is retiring after 21 seasons in the NHL, a career that includes a Stanley Cup championship along with 561 goals

and 1,374 points -- both of which are records for U.S.-born players.

"It's just time," he said in a phone interview from Dallas, taking a break between playing 36 holes of golf. "I didn't get any calls after July 1 and I figured that was it."

Only it wasn't. The 41-year-

old Modano said Vancouver assistant general manager Lorne Henning offered him a chance last week to continue his career with the Canucks.

"I told him I had to pass because I hadn't touched a weight or unzipped my bag since we lost in San Jose," he said.

Modano ended his career as a banged-up player who had lost a step and some zip off his shot during his one-season stint with his hometown Detroit Red Wings. A skate sliced a tendon in his right wrist and limited him to 40 games and career lows with four goals and 15 points with the Red Wings. "He was on the verge of really producing for us before he got injured," former Red Wings teammate Chris Osgood said. "By the time he was able to play, it was too late. But back in the 1990s, few guys could skate and shoot like him. I can still see him flying down the ice, cutting down the lane and snapping off a shot toward the high glove."

In Modano's prime, he was among the best hockey players on the planet -- shifty, speedy and with a tough-to-stop wrist shot. He also played in three Olympics, helping the Americans win silver in 2002.

"His speed was his strength," said former NHL player Chris Chelios, a teammate in the Olympics. "He had a great shot -- hard and heavy -- and he was tough to stop once he made a turn and generated speed. He was a great ambassador for the U.S. team." The executive director of USA Hockey agreed.

"Scores of kids grew up pretending to be Mike Modano, not only in our country, but across the world," Dave Ogrea said. "That fact alone helps frame the enormous impact he's had on the game. His accomplishments on the ice speak for themselves. He's one of our greatest players ever." □



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Yankees clinch 16th playoff trip in 17 years

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As the final out fell into Curtis Granderson's glove, the Yankees walked calmly to the mound to congratulate Mariano Rivera. No leaping. No screaming. No bubbly. Just handshakes. Playoff berths have become so commonplace in the Bronx — 16 in 17 years — they're no longer cause for celebration. "We still feel as though we didn't accomplish anything yet," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said after New York rallied past Tampa Bay 4-2 Wednesday and handed the Rays a damaging defeat in the opener of a day-night doubleheader. "I mean, we're happy to be in the playoffs, but people aren't running around here jumping up and down because we clinched a post-season berth. Our goal is to win the division."

Eduardo Nunez hit a tying home run in the eighth inning against All-Star James Shields, and Robinson Cano followed with a two-run double off J.P. Howell to clinch the Yankees' spot. Despite using a makeshift lineup, New York clinched no worse than a wild-card berth and lowered the magic number to two for its 12th AL East title in 16 seasons. "It's not time to celebrate just yet," Nick Swisher said, explaining the Yankees' reserved approach. "It's crazy, though. I'm sure a lot of other teams would not be doing that."

Five World Series titles and seven American League pennants since 1996 for Jeter, Rivera and Jorge

Posada have numbed the Yankees and their fans to preliminary achievements. "It's the first step of three that you want, to me, to accomplish in the regular season. First one is to get in. Second one is to win your division, and the third one is to have homefield advantage throughout," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "Since I've been here, I know that there's been an expectation for this club to win every year, and that starts from the top. That started from Mr. Steinbrenner, and it hasn't changed one bit."

In the rain-delayed second game, the Yankees' CC Sabathia (19-8) was to make his third try for his 20th win. Rookie Jeremy Hellickson (13-10) was to start for the Rays, who led 2-1 in the eighth only to be stunned by the quick turnabout. Tampa Bay began the day trailing Boston by two games for the AL wild-card spot; the Red Sox hosted Baltimore at night.

"It's not good, but we have another game to play in a couple minutes, so you can't really worry about it too long," Rays manager Joe Maddon said.

Alex Rodriguez hit an RBI double in the first, but that was all the Yankees got off Shields (15-12) until the eighth. Desmond Jennings put the Rays ahead 2-1 with a two-run homer in the second inning off emergency starter Hector Noesi.

Nunez then hooked an 82 mph pitch into the first row of the left-field seats leading off the eighth. Brett Gardner singled with one

out, Jeter walked, and that was it for Shields.

Left-hander J.P. Howell relieved and fell behind 3-1, and Cano lined an opposite-field drive into the gap in left-center. In the dugout, Shields briefly put a towel over his head, unable to watch. □



New York Yankees catcher Russell Martin (55) congratulates New York Yankees relief pitcher Mariano Rivera after the Yankees defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 4-2 in the first baseball game of a double header on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.



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Judge questions images for cigarette packages

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. judge peppered a government lawyer with questions Wednesday expressing doubts about whether the Food and Drug Administration can force tobacco companies to post graphic images on their cigarette packages showing the health effects of smoking. In a two-hour hearing, U.S. District Judge Richard Leon closely questioned Justice Department lawyer Mark Stern on whether the nine graphic images proposed by the FDA convey just the facts about the health risks of smoking or go beyond that into advocacy — a critical distinction in a case over free speech. The cigarette companies sued in an effort to block the FDA from enforcing the requirement, which would go in effect a year from now. The images include a cloud



In this Dec. 28, 2001 file photo, John Matheny sits during one of his three weekly sessions at the Morgantown Dialysis Center where he receives his kidney dialysis treatments, near Granville, W. Va.

Associated Press

of cigarette smoke within inches of a baby's face; a pair of healthy lungs next to the diseased lungs of a smoker; a smoker's stained teeth and a lip diseased by cigarettes; and a dead

smoker on an autopsy table with a line of surgical stitches in his chest.

If the judge were to conclude the images amount to advocacy, that would make it more likely that the

tobacco companies would be able to block the government's latest move in regulating the industry.

Leon said he hopes to issue a ruling by the end of October.

Lawyers for the tobacco companies argued that the government is free to tell people how to live — through steps such as enacting smoking bans on teenagers and by requiring written, factual warnings on the sides of cigarette packages from the surgeon general about the effects of smoking.

But what the government cannot do is "conscript" the companies "into an anti-smoking brigade," noted constitutional lawyer Floyd Abrams told the judge. The judge questioned Stern about why the images did not amount to advocacy. "What do you say is the line" between advocacy and fact? he asked Stern.

"This is not an ordinary product" and the images coupled with written warnings are designed to communicate the dangers to the public — including youngsters as well as adults, Stern replied. □

Study: Dialysis 3 times weekly might not be enough

ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A major study challenges the way diabetics and others with failing kidneys have been treated for half a century, finding that three-times-a-week dialysis to cleanse the blood of toxins may not be enough.

Deaths, heart attacks and hospitalizations were much higher on the day after the two-day interval between treatments each week than at other times, the federally funded study found.

The president of the National Kidney Foundation said she was "very troubled" by the results published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"We could be doing a better job for our dialysis patients" and that might mean doing it more often, said Dr. Lynda Szczech, a Duke University kidney specialist who had no role in the study.

Kidneys rid the body of waste and fluids. Most of the 400,000 Americans with

failing kidneys stay alive by getting their blood purified by a machine three days a week at dialysis clinics — usually on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. In both cases, there's a two-day break between the last session of the week and the next one. The three-day dialysis schedule has been around since the mid-1960s and gives patients a weekend break from the grueling hours of being hooked up to a machine.

However, doctors have suspected that the two-day hiatus between treatments was risky, and smaller studies have found more heart-related deaths on the day after the gap.

"All the fluids and toxins are built up to the highest extent on Monday morning right before dialysis," said Dr. Anthony Bleyer of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina, who has done similar studies.

The latest research, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is the largest yet.

It was done by Dr. Robert Foley of the University of Minnesota and colleagues. All reported receiving fees from dialysis clinics and suppliers.



In this Dec. 28, 2001 file photo, John Matheny sits during one of his three weekly sessions at the Morgantown Dialysis Center where he receives his kidney dialysis treatments, near Granville, W. Va.

Associated Press

The team analyzed medical records of 32,000 people who had in-center dialysis three times a week from 2005 through 2008. The average age was 62 and a quarter had been on dialysis for a year or less.

After about two years of follow-up, 41 percent had died, including 17 percent from heart-related causes. Monday was the riskiest day for people on a Mon-

day-Wednesday-Friday schedule. For those on a Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday schedule, the riskiest day was Tuesday. Researchers found a 22 percent higher risk of death on the day after a

long break compared with other days of the week. Put another way: For every 100 people on dialysis for a year, 22 would die on the day after the long interval versus 18 on other days.

Hospital admissions for stroke and heart-related problems more than doubled on the day after a long break than on other days — 44 versus 20 for every 100 people treated.

Fixing this problem, however, could be daunting for patients, busy dialysis centers and insurers and it would require a rethinking of how dialysis is currently delivered. Medicare covers the cost of dialysis, regardless of age, spending about \$77,000 annually per person. It covers thrice-weekly treatment, but people can get a fourth session if needed.

Dr. Paul Eggers of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases said adjusting how dialysis is done "would require some fairly convincing evidence." □

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Earth to satellite: When will you hit _ and where?

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — NASA scientists are doing their best to tell us where a plummeting six-ton satellite will fall later this week. It's just that if they're off a little bit, it could mean the difference between hitting Florida or landing on New York. Or, say, Iran or India. Pinpointing where and when hurtling space debris will strike is an imprecise science. For now, scientists predict the earliest it will hit is Thursday U.S. time, the latest Saturday. The strike zone covers most of Earth. Not that citizens need to take cover. The satellite will break into pieces, and NASA put the chances that somebody somewhere will get hurt at just 1-in-3,200.

As far as anyone knows, falling space debris has never injured anyone. Nor has significant property damage been reported. That's because most of the planet is covered in water and there are vast regions of empty land.

If you do come across what you suspect is a satellite piece, NASA doesn't want you to pick it up. The space agency says there are no toxic chemicals present, but there could be sharp edges. Also, it's government property. It's against the law to keep it as a souvenir or sell it on eBay. NASA's advice is to report it to the police.

The 20-year-old research satellite is expected to break into more than 100 pieces as it enters the atmosphere, most of it burning up. Twenty-six of the heaviest metal parts are expected to reach Earth, the biggest chunk weighing about 300 pounds. The debris could be scattered

over an area about 500 miles long.

Jonathan McDowell, for one, isn't worried. He is in the potential strike zone — along with most of the world's 7 billion citizens. McDowell is with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"There's stuff that's heavy that falls out of the sky almost every year," McDowell says. So far this year, he noted, two massive Russian rocket stages have taken the plunge.

As for the odds of the satellite hitting someone, "it's a small chance. We take much bigger chances all the time in our lives," McDowell says. "So I'm not putting my tin helmet on or hiding under a rock."

All told, 1,200 pounds of wreckage is expected to smack down — the heaviest pieces made of titanium, stainless steel or beryllium. That represents just one-tenth the mass of the satellite, which stretches 35 feet long and 15 feet in di-

ameter.

The strike zone straddles all points between latitudes 57 degrees north and 57



In this image provided by NASA this is the STS-48 onboard photo of the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS) in the grasp of the RMS (Remote Manipulator System) during deployment, from the shuttle in September 1991. The satellite is 35 feet long, 15 feet in diameter, weighs 13,000 pounds.

degrees south. That's as far north as Edmonton and Alberta, Canada, and Aberdeen, Scotland, and as far south as Cape Horn, the southernmost tip of South America. Every continent

but Antarctica is in the crosshairs.

Back when UARS, the Upper Atmosphere Research

to burn up on re-entering the atmosphere or to have enough fuel to be steered into a watery grave or up into a higher, long-term orbit.

The International Space Station — the largest man-made structure ever to orbit the planet — is no exception. NASA has a plan to bring it down safely sometime after 2020.

Russia's old Mir station came down over the Pacific, in a controlled re-entry, in 2001. But one of its predecessors, Salyut 7, fell uncontrolled through the atmosphere in 1991. The most recent uncontrolled return of a large NASA satellite was in 2002.

The most sensational case of all was Skylab, the early U.S. space station whose impending demise three decades ago alarmed people around the world and touched off a guessing game as to where it might land. It plummeted harmlessly into the Indian Ocean and onto remote parts of Australia in July 1979. □

Associated Press

Satellite, was launched to study the ozone layer in 1991, NASA didn't always pay attention to the "what goes up must come down" rule. Nowadays, satellites must be designed either

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Stocks plunge after Fed announces stimulus steps

CHIP CUTTER
FRANCESCA LEVY
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The Federal Reserve did what investors expected — it said it would buy Treasury bonds to help the U.S. economy. Stocks then plunged because investors saw a grim forecast behind the Fed's plans.

The Fed said Wednesday it would buy long-term Treasuries and sell short-term ones to help the economy regain momentum. It surprised investors when it said it would include more 30-year bonds in its purchases than expected.

Financial analysts said stocks dropped as investors came to the conclusion that the Fed expects the economy to take years to recover.

"It's being viewed as perhaps an admission that this is a longer-term issue that the U.S. economy is facing and not one that's going to be solved over a couple of years," said Oliver Pursche, president of Gary Goldberg Financial Services.

The major indexes fluctuated as they often do after major Fed announcements. The losses accelerated in the last hour of trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 283.82 points, or 2.5 percent, and closed at 11,124.84. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 35.33, or 2.9 percent, to 1,166.76. The Nasdaq composite fell 52.05, or 2 percent, to 2,538.19.

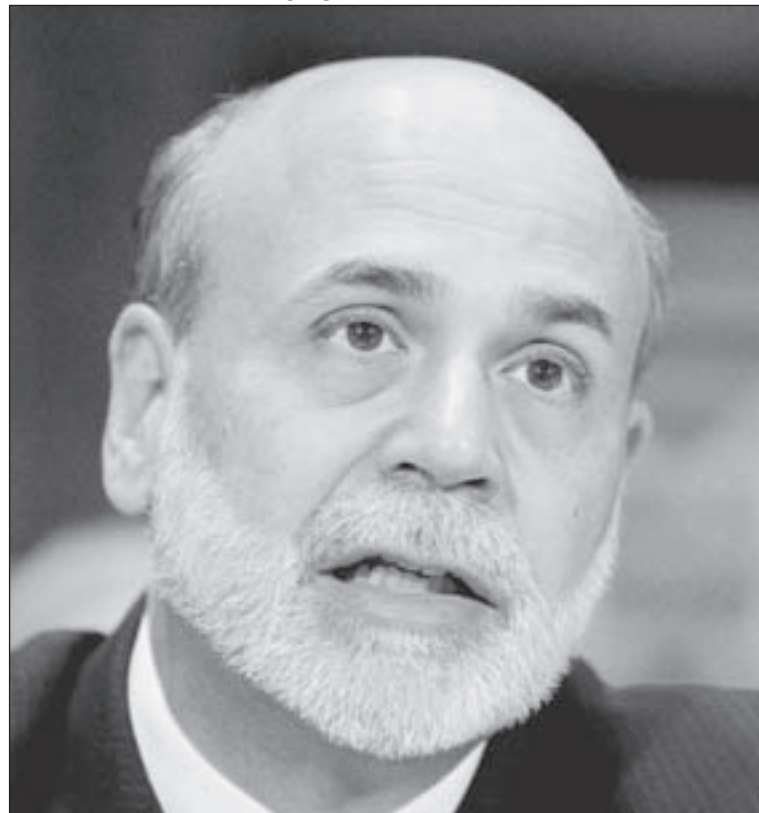
The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to a record low of 1.86 percent from late Tuesday's 1.93 percent.

After a two-day meeting,

the Fed said it would buy \$400 billion in 6-year to 30-year Treasuries by June 2012. Over the same period, it planned to sell \$400 billion of Treasuries maturing in 3 years or less. The move is intended to drive down interest rates on long-term government debt, and could lower rates on mortgages

"When the Fed decides to take this type of action, it's because things are serious," Pursche said.

Wednesday's trading recalled the sharp losses the market has suffered this summer as investors feared that the country was heading toward another recession.



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The last time the Federal Reserve came up with a big plan to help the economy, it totaled \$600 billion and touched off a 28 percent rally in the stock market. But if the Fed takes any new steps, as many people expect, it won't look anything like that. Look for small ball, not a home run. "Operation Twist," as Fed-watchers are already calling it, in a nod to economic history, probably will help the economy and the stock market.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

and other loans.

Those purchases are intended to send long-term rates down.

The inclusion of more 30-year bonds than expected indicated that the Fed sees a need to keep rates lower for an extended period. And that took investors by surprise, Pursche said.

The Fed had some bleak remarks about the state of the economy in the statement that accompanied its decision to buy more bonds.

The Fed said the economy has "significant downside risks." One of those risks is the volatility in financial markets around the world.

It also listed a number of problems that won't be easily solved: high unemployment, a depressed housing market and consumer spending that is growing only at a slow pace.

There are also concerns about problems overseas, including the debt crisis in Europe that investors believe could affect the U.S. The International Monetary Fund said Wednesday the global financial system is in its most vulnerable state since the 2008 financial crisis. In a semi-annual report, the IMF said the risk to banks and financial markets has grown in recent months.

The Fed's new bond buying plan has been dubbed "Operation Twist" because it is designed to "twist" long-term rates relative to shorter ones. The last time a similar program was used was in the early 1960s, when the twist was the rage on dance floors.

This is the third major bond-buying program by the Fed in less than three years.

"That is perhaps a recognition that the Fed is running out of firepower and resorting to some arcane techniques resurrected from the vault of history," said Lawrence Creatura, portfolio manager at Federated Investors.

Investors may also be doubting the Fed's ability to drive down Treasury yields much more from their current levels.

"Let's face it: with a 10-year Treasury offering 1.90 percent, there's not a whole lot of room for there to be a major impact," said Mark Lamkin, the head of Louisville, Kentucky-based Lamkin Wealth Management. □

Oil falls on Fed stimulus plan

CHRIS KAHN,
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil dropped Wednesday as the Federal Reserve announced a new stimulus plan that some analysts said would not do enough to spark the economy and boost demand for oil and gas.

The Fed's latest remedy for the economy focuses on rebalancing its \$2.87 trillion portfolio to lower Treasury yields and potentially reduce rates on mortgages and other loans. Analysts said it falls short of last year's \$600 billion bond-buying program that ended this year.

Benchmark crude gave up \$1 to finish at \$85.92 per barrel in New York. Oil recovered some earlier losses after the Fed announcement, but prices were still lower at the end of the day. Brent crude, used to price crude from foreign countries, fell 18 cents to finish at \$110.36 in London.

The economy has slowed this year, growing at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent. Consumer spending has been stagnant and the unemployment rate remains high. Other nations are also struggling to grow, and economists have cut back their expectations for global oil demand this year.

"The market is saying, 'Thank you very much Ben Bernanke,' but it's not enough to get our banks out of trouble," PFGBest analyst Phil Flynn said.

Oil prices fell Wednesday even though U.S. supplies dropped more than expected last week. The Energy Information Administration said the nation's oil inventories shrank by 7.3 million barrels. Supplies have declined since Tropical Storm Lee battered oil platforms along the Gulf Coast earlier this month. Oil companies were forced to evacuate workers and shut down daily production by as much as 900,000 barrels per day. □

Gold little changed on Fed plan

NEW YORK (AP) — An expected move by the Federal Reserve to take new steps to stimulate the U.S. economy had little impact on gold prices Wednesday.

Trading for gold and other precious metals closed before the Fed announcement of a program to drive down long-term interest rates. A drop in borrowing costs will likely push up the prices of gold and other metals, analysts say.

Traders made few large moves ahead of the Fed's announcement. Gold finished at \$1,808.10 an ounce, down less than 0.1 percent from Tuesday's close.

Other metals were mixed. Silver rose less than a percent to end at \$40.46 an ounce. Palladium dropped 0.7 percent to \$712.85. Copper, which is often seen as a bet on the direction of the broad economy, rose 1 percent to finish at \$3.7640.

Grains were mixed. Contracts for wheat and soybeans each fell by more than 1 percent. Corn contracts fell 0.7 percent to \$6.8575.

In energy trading, benchmark crude lost \$1 to end at \$85.92 per barrel in New York. Heating oil fell 2.74 cents to \$2.9342 per gallon. Gasoline futures lost 3.49 cents at \$2.6665 a gallon. Natural gas dropped 6.8 cents to finish the day at \$3.730 per 1,000 cubic feet. □

Business Briefs

10-yr Treasury rate hits low

WASHINGTON (AP) — The interest rates on 10- and 30-year Treasuries sank sharply Wednesday after the Federal Reserve said it will buy billions in longer-term bonds. The aim is to lower long-term rates and boost the sagging economy — something super-low yields have so far failed to do. The central bank's plan means that bond yields will remain at or near record lows for the near future. The 10-year Treasury bond hit a record low following Wednesday's announcement. It's also good news for borrowers, who could see lower rates on their next mortgage or business loan. For savers relying on interest income, the plan could hurt. The yields on 10-year Treasury bonds have been near record lows most of the summer. Traders dumped stocks and other riskier investments because of jitters about the economy and the European debt crisis. That increased demand for Treasuries, which carry less risk. Bonds are attractive in a volatile market because they offer predictable and safe — if modest — returns. Stocks can lose value quickly. When demand pushes Treasury prices higher, their yields fall. The higher price eats into the return that traders can pocket. □



Displayed is a General Mills, Green Giant can of corn Niblets. General Mills Inc.'s fiscal first-quarter net income fell 14 percent, but adjusted results beat Wall Street's expectations as revenue climbed on higher prices, solid demand and new products.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

General Mills 1Q revenue rises

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — General Mills Inc.'s fiscal first-quarter net income fell 14 percent, but its adjusted results beat Wall Street's expectations as revenue climbed on higher prices, solid demand and new products. The Minneapolis-based food maker also reaffirmed its full-year adjusted earnings outlook.

The maker of Cheerios cereal and Haagen-Dazs ice cream said Wednesday that its net income fell to \$405.6 million, or 61 cents per share, for the period ended Aug. 28, down from \$473.6 million, or 70 cents per share, a year earlier.

Removing special items, adjusted earnings came to 64 cents per share.

This topped the 62 cents per share that analysts surveyed by FactSet predicted. Revenue rose 9 percent to \$3.85 billion from \$3.53 billion, beating Wall Street's forecast of \$3.81 billion. The period included one month of results for Yoplait, which the company acquired a controlling stake in during the quarter.

General Mills announced in May that it would pay \$1.15 billion to acquire a controlling interest in the yogurt company from a French investment firm and dairy group. General Mills said the Yoplait deal added 3 percentage points to its revenue increase. □



A Bank of America logo is displayed at a branch office in Palo Alto, Calif. Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday lowered its debt ratings for Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Citigroup. The ratings agency said it has become less likely that the U.S. government would step in and prevent the three lenders from failing in a crisis.

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma)

Moody's cuts BofA, Wells Fargo and Citi ratings

PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Three of the top U.S. banks are likely to start paying more to borrow money. Moody's Investors Service on Wednesday lowered its debt ratings for Bank of America, Wells Fargo and Citigroup. The ratings agency said it has become less likely that the U.S. government would step in and prevent the three lenders from failing in a crisis.

"The probability of government support for the banks is less now than during the financial crisis," said David Fanger, senior vice president at Moody's.

The downgrades were widely expected after the ratings agency placed the

three banks on review in June. The cuts also stem partly from new laws taking effect under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act. The new law ended the possibility of the government bailing out a large financial firm and created a process that would allow a financially troubled bank to fail and liquidate its assets. Bank of America Corp. was hit worst. Moody's downgraded its key long-term debt ratings two notches, to Baa1 from A2. Wells Fargo & Co.'s long-term debt rating fell one notch to A2 from A1, while Citigroup Inc.'s rating remained the same at A3. Moody's did downgrade Citi's short-term debt.

Bank of America's ratings are the lowest among the three. All three of the banks' debt is still rated investment grade. A downgrade is a warning to buyers of debt that the chance that they won't get their money back has increased, however slightly. Downgrades usually lead to higher borrowing costs for the issuer because investors want more interest if they're taking a bigger risk. Long-term debt includes bonds that come due in more than one year. The downgrades couldn't have come at a worse time for the banks, whose stocks have been pounded this year on uncertainty over how the European debt crisis will affect them. □

Dollar rebounds against euro after Fed statement

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar rebounded against the euro and other major currencies Wednesday after the U.S. Federal Reserve announced new plans to help boost the American economy.

The central bank said it will buy long-term Treasuries and sell short-term securities to help spur growth. The plan could lower rates for mortgages as well as those for consumer and business loans. The plan was expected by investors.

The euro slipped to \$1.3667 late Wednesday from \$1.3688 late Tuesday. The

euro had been trading higher against the dollar for most of the day, reaching as high as \$1.3797 before falling back after the Fed announcement.

Kathy Lien, director of currency research at GFT, said that investors were disappointed that the Federal Reserve didn't do more to help the economy.

"Part of the reason why they were so conservative was because they are holding onto the blind hope that this will be enough to jumpstart the U.S. economy," Lien said in a note to clients. "However investors clearly

do not share the central bank's rosy sentiment."

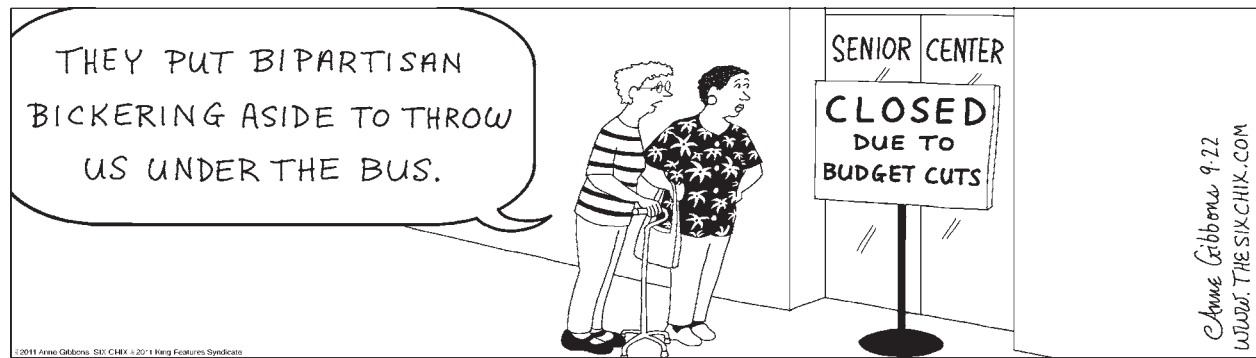
Lien said investors began buying back dollars following the announcement because they are now expecting "a prolonged period of slower global growth."

Investors consider the U.S. currency to be a safe-haven currency, and they tend to buy it in times of global economic turmoil. Elsewhere, the British pound fell to \$1.5578 from \$1.5732 Tuesday. It fell as low as \$1.5556 early Wednesday, its lowest point since January 11. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6					9	
4	5			2		1	6
			9		3		
		1				7	
	8						2
		2				6	
			4		7		
2	3			5			8 4
	9					5	

Difficulty Level ★★

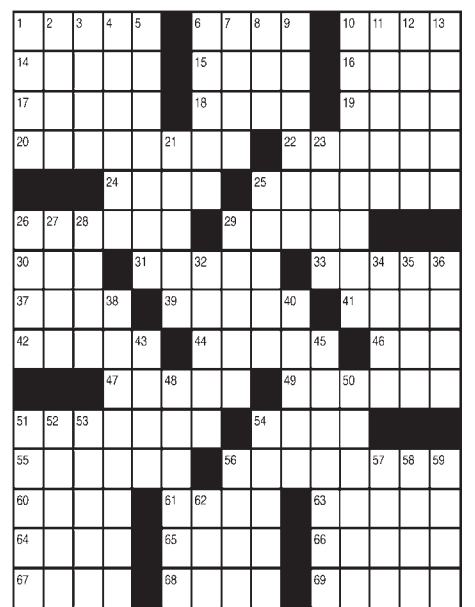
9/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	5	6	7	8	4	2	1	9
8	7	2	9	1	6	5	3	4
4	9	1	2	5	3	7	8	6
1	8	7	3	4	5	6	9	2
6	4	5	1	2	9	8	7	3
9	2	3	8	6	7	4	5	1
7	6	4	5	3	1	9	2	8
2	1	9	4	7	8	3	6	5
5	3	8	6	9	2	1	4	7

ACROSS

- 1 Spice rack herb
- 6 _ Louie salad
- 10 _ a test; passes easily
- 14 Make amends
- 15 Braided cord
- 16 Huntley or Atkins
- 17 Banquet for a celebrity, often
- 18 Dines
- 19 Concern
- 20 Drink of wine and soda water
- 22 Spain's peninsula
- 24 PC brand
- 25 Modified to make fit
- 26 Short jacket
- 29 Build
- 30 Holy dread
- 31 Market
- 33 Makes well
- 37 Grizzly, for one
- 39 Adventure tales
- 41 _ in on; visit
- 42 Inserted
- 44 Out of _; inaccessible
- 46 Boise's state: abbr.
- 47 Penalized financially
- 49 Become embarrassed
- 51 _ to; against
- 54 Walking stick
- 55 Puncture
- 56 Solicit votes
- 60 Evaluation by a doctor
- 61 Dull in color
- 63 Actor _ Albert
- 64 Pleasant
- 65 One of the 12 tribes of Israel
- 66 Jail units
- 67 One of many in a watermelon
- 68 _ though; albeit
- 69 Genuflected



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/22/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ARK	ASHES	SHIP
PEAR	SHADE	STONE
TALE	SINGE	ROTE
RESCINDED	UPON	
PAGE	LAC	
ASTERN	THICKSET	
SPECS	PRINT	TAR
HART	CLANG	SAGE
ERR	ERUPT	VILLA
NEARNESS	BILKED	
IDA	HIVE	
CHIC	TOLERANCE	
LUSH	IVIED	CHAP
OGLE	VERDI	EASE
TEES	ERASE	RYE

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9/22/11

DOWN

- 1 Saloons
- 2 Perched upon

- 3 Fly high
- 4 Not outdoors
- 5 A, B, C, D, etc.
- 6 Fish basket
- 7 Laugh loudly
- 8 Likely
- 9 Next to
- 10 Took willingly
- 11 Diagram
- 12 Spooky
- 13 Word after bed or home
- 21 Poland's dollar
- 23 Composer Johann Sebastian
- 25 Sports building
- 26 "Ali _ and the Forty Thieves"
- 27 Was in the red
- 28 Pencil's center
- 29 Blundered
- 32 Rowed
- 34 Very dry
- 35 Ore deposit
- 36 Reach across
- 38 Turned over a new leaf
- 40 "Beat it!"

- 43 Compact _; CD
- 45 Nag
- 48 Tease; torment
- 50 Make numb
- 51 Unlocks
- 52 Cheerful sprite
- 53 Tranquility
- 54 Home of logs
- 56 _ in; cease resisting
- 57 Twiddling one's thumbs
- 58 Fish's breathing organ
- 59 Home in the tree branches
- 62 Gun the engine

Today In History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, September 22, the 265th day of 2011. There are 100 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1499 - Turks ravage Vicenza in Italy.

1550 - Holy Roman Empire fleet captures vessel Port of Africa at Mehedia in Tunis, naval headquarters of Turkish corsair Dragut.

1609 - The king of Spain orders the deportation of the baptized former Muslims known as Moriscos.

1711 - Rio de Janeiro is captured by the French.

1792 - French Republic is proclaimed and revolutionary calendar goes into effect.

1862 - U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring all slaves in the Confederate States free as of Jan. 1, 1863.

1914 - A German submarine sinks three British cruisers in one hour off the Dutch coast; the German cruiser Emden shells Madras in India.

1927 - Slavery is abolished in Sierra Leone in Africa.

1940 - The Vichy French governor-general concludes an agreement that makes Indochina the largest Japanese military staging ground in southeast Asia.

1949 - The Soviet Union explodes its first atomic bomb. 1955 - Hurricane Janet, the most violent Caribbean hurricane of the season, causes almost 600 deaths around the islands.

1960 - A U.S. Marine Corps DC-6 plane en route from Japan to the Philippines crashes in the ocean 290 kilometers (180 miles) south of Okinawa. All 29 passengers are killed.

1965 - A cease-fire is declared in the war between India and Pakistan, but both sides subsequently violate it.

1970 - Arab chiefs of state send envoys to meet with King Hussein and Yasser Arafat to persuade them to find a way to contain the fighting between the Jor-



Today is Joan Jett's birthday

danian Army and Palestinian guerrillas.

1974 - Official death toll in hurricane that swept Honduras is put at 5,000.

1975 - Sara Jane Moore fails in an attempt to shoot U.S. President Gerald Ford outside a San Francisco hotel.

1980 - Iraqi tanks enter Iran, marking the beginning of the Iran-Iraq War as a full-scale conflict.

1986 - Two hijackers seize Soviet airliner at Ural Mountains airport and kill two passengers before security agents recapture plane and shoot the hijackers.

1988 - The government of Canada apologizes for the World War II internment of Japanese-Canadians and promises compensation.

1989 - F. W. De Klerk takes over as president of South Africa.

1990 - Jordan's King Hussein appeals to United States in televised message to withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia to avert "death, destruction and misery."

1992 - Azerbaijani-armed forces mount an offensive against the disputed enclave Nagorno-Karabakh.

1993 - Abkhazian rebels in Georgia shoot down second passenger plane in two days, killing 80.

1994 - NATO aircraft strike at Serbian targets near Sarajevo after U.N. troops patrolling the city came under machine-gun and rocket fire.

1995 - America's Time Warner Inc. and Turner Broadcasting System Inc. announce a merger with Time Warner purchasing TBS in a deal valued at \$7.5 billion, creating the world's largest

media company.

1996 - Typhoon Violet veers into the North Pacific after killing seven and setting off landslides that paralyzed transportation in Japan.

1997 - U.S. President Bill Clinton, speaking at the United Nations, announces he will submit to the Senate a treaty banning all nuclear explosions.

1998 - Troops from South Africa and Botswana cross into Lesotho and storm the royal palace, touching off a gunbattle with protesters.

1999 - Dutch journalist Sander Thoenes is killed and two others assaulted in separate attacks in East Timor blamed on anti-independence militiamen.

2001 - Pope John Paul II visits Kazakhstan and Armenia and cautions against allowing Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States to create divisions between Muslims and Christians.

2004 - The U.S. military drops an espionage charge against a Muslim interpreter accused of spying at the camp for terror detainees at the U.S. military base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. It is the third Guantanamo spy case of the year to fall apart.

Today's Birthdays:

Michael Faraday, British physicist (1791-1862); Caroline Astor, U.S. aristocrat of New York high society (1830-1908); Erich von Stroheim, German director and actor (1885-1957); Louis Botha, South African soldier-statesman (1862-1919); John Houseman, U.S. stage/radio actor (1902-1988); Fay Weldon, British writer (1931-); Andrea Bocelli, Italian opera singer (1958-); Joan Jett, U.S. rock singer (1960-).

Thought For Today:

The autumn always gets me badly, as it breaks into colors. I want to go south, where there is no autumn, where the cold doesn't crouch over one like a snow-leopard waiting to pounce — D.H. Lawrence, English author (1885-1930). □

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Sta. Cruz 585-4710
Savaneta 584-7000
San Nicolas 584-5000

Emergency Numbers
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Police 100
Fire Dept. 115
Fire Dept. II 582-1108
Police Tipline 11141
Hospital 527-4000

Oranjestad
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Police station 584-5000
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606
Valero Security 584-1720

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Taxi D.T.S. 587-2300
Service Aruba 583-3232

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26 Ocean Dream

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This Sept. 13, 2011 photo shows Anthony Guarino Jr., a seismic analyst at the California Institute of Technology, demonstrating an early earthquake warning system in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. scientists testing earthquake early warning

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer
PASADENA, California (AP)

— After years of lagging behind Japan, Mexico and other quake-prone countries, the U.S. government has been quietly testing an earthquake early warning system in California.

Elizabeth Cochran belongs to an exclusive club of scientists who receive a heads up every time the state shakes. She was sitting in her office this month when her computer suddenly sounded an alarm. Beep. Beep. Beep. A map of California on her screen lit up with a red dot, signaling an earthquake had struck. A clock counted down the seconds until shock waves fanning out from the epicenter north of Los Angeles reached her in Pasadena: 5-4-3-2-1.

Right on cue, Cochran felt her chair quiver from a magnitude-4.2 that rumbled through Southern California on Sept. 1.

"If I hadn't known it was an earthquake, I would have thought it was a truck going by," she said. The alert system is still crude and messages are not yet broadcast to residents or businesses. With more testing and funding, researchers hope to build a public warning system similar to the Japanese that has been credited with saving lives during the March 11 magnitude-9 disaster.

Since earthquakes are unpredictable, supporters of early warning say it's the next best thing to prepare people and businesses before the ground rocks. Even a 5-second advance notice can be precious,

they contend. "You want to get under a sturdy table before things start falling off the wall," said University of California, Berkeley, seismologist Richard Allen, a project participant. "We don't want people to start running out of buildings."

Early warning is designed to sense the first pulses of energy after a fault breaks and estimate the magnitude. This is possible because of the different speeds at which seismic waves travel. A sprawling web of underground sensors can detect the faster-moving and less damaging primary "P" waves before the secondary "S" waves that can cause buildings to pancake. A warning is issued ahead of the arrival of the stronger waves.

How much warning — a few seconds to tens of seconds — depends on the distance from the epicenter. The farther away, the more lead time.

Project chief Doug Given of the U.S. Geological Survey ticked off actions that can be taken: Trains can be slowed or stopped. Air traffic controllers can halt takeoffs and landings. Power plants and factories can close valves. School-children can dive under their desks and cover their heads.

Early warnings are useless at the quake's origin because the tremors radiate out almost simultaneously. Japan invested in a public alert system after the deadly 1995 magnitude-6.9 Kobe earthquake. Development began in 2000. Seven years and \$500 million later, Japan unveiled the world's first early warning network. □

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The end of the world: R.E.M. calling it quits

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — R.I.P. to R.E.M.

The alternative rock group that shook up the music world with its experimental, edgy sound and then earned multiplatinum success and a place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced on its website Wednesday that it has “decided to call it a day as a band.” “A wise man once said — ‘the skill in attending a party is knowing when it’s time to leave.’ We built something extraordinary together. We did this thing. And now we’re going to walk away from it,” front-man Michael Stipe said in a statement on the website. “I hope our fans realize this wasn’t an easy decision; but all things must end, and we wanted to do it right, to do it our way.” The Grammy-winning group, now composed of Stipe, guitarist Peter Buck and bassist Mike Mills, released its debut album “Murmur” in 1983; at the time it was a quartet, with drummer Bill Berry. He left the group in 1997, two years after he suffered symptoms of an aneurysm onstage.

The group got its start in Athens, Ga., coming out of the region’s flourishing indie-rock scene. The band was credited for helping launch college radio with songs such as “Radio Free Europe.” Later, the mainstream caught on, and R.E.M. became chart-topping rockers, selling millions of albums with hits like “It’s the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine),” “Losing My Religion” and “Everybody Hurts.” Stipe, the band’s chief songwriter, crafted songs that were atypical of the standard rock fare. “Man on the Moon” was about the late comic Andy Kaufman. “Losing My Religion” was not about religion at all, but about trying to relay the feelings of a crush. The band’s videos also became staples on MTV in the 1990s, including the eye-catching “Losing My Religion” and the stark “Everybody Hurts,” which had Stipe walking through a highway traffic jam. R.E.M. became one of the more forceful voices of 1990s rock, and came along around the same time as another rock quartet — U2. But whereas U2 managed to maintain (and



In this July 15, 2008 file photo, U.S. rock band R.E.M. with singer Michael Stipe, left, and guitarist Peter Buck, right, perform at an open air concert in Dresden, eastern Germany.

Associated Press

even increase) its popularity over the years, R.E.M. stumbled commercially in recent years, and their hits dwindled. The band continued to create music that resonated with critics and their core group

of fans; the group’s last album, “Collapse into Now,” was released in March and a greatest hits retrospective is in the works. But Mills said the band was running

tive, we started asking ourselves, ‘What next?’” he said. “Working through our music and memories from over three decades was a hell of a journey. We realized that these songs seemed to draw a natural line under the last 31 years of our working together.” Buck said the band parts as “great friends” and thanked fans for their support. “One of the things that was always so great about being in R.E.M. was the fact that the records and the songs we wrote meant as much to our fans as they did to us,” said Buck. “It was, and still is, important to us to do right by you. Being a part of your lives has been an unbelievable gift. Thank you.” Warner Bros. Records chairman and producer Rob Cavallo said, “To call R.E.M. one of the greatest bands in contemporary music is an understatement. They leave behind a body of work whose breadth, honesty, creativity and power has not only inspired millions of fans around the world, but also has influenced — and will continue to influence —

Tony Bennett apologizes for suggesting U.S. provoked 9/11

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Bennett apologized Wednesday for suggesting the United States provoked the 9/11 attacks, saying he was only expressing his feelings as a pacifist when he made the comments during an interview on Howard Stern’s radio show. “There is simply no excuse for terrorism and the murder of the nearly 3,000 innocent victims of the 9/11 attacks on our country,” the 85-year-old crooner said in a written statement. “I am sorry if my statements suggested anything other than an expression of my love for my country, my hope for humanity and my desire for peace throughout the world.”

On Monday, Bennett told Stern that the attacks by al-

Qaida were linked to U.S. aggression.

“Are we the terrorists? Or are they the terrorists? Two wrongs don’t make a right,” he said on the show.

“They flew the plane in. But we caused it. We were bombing them, and they told us to stop.”

Bennett said Wednesday that he was proud to have fought for American values in World War II but had come to deplore violence. “My life experiences — ranging from the Battle of the Bulge to marching with Martin Luther King — made me a lifelong humanist and pacifist, and reinforced my belief that violence begets violence and that war is the lowest form of human behavior,” Bennett said. □



In this Sept. 18, 2011 photo, singer Tony Bennett arrives at his 85th birthday gala in New York.

Associated Press



In this 1994 file photo originally released by Warner Bros. Records, alternative rock band R.E.M., from left, Mike Mills, Michael Stipe, Bill Berry, and Peter Buck are shown when they released their new album “Monster.” The band announced Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011 on their website that they are breaking up.

Associated Press

out of ideas. “During our last tour, and while making ‘Collapse Into Now’ and putting together this greatest hits retrospec-

generations of songwriters and performers for years to come.” Warner Bros. is releasing the greatest hits retrospective in November. □

Cowell back on TV with 'X Factor,' hopes of a hit



Left to right, Nicole Scherzinger, Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and L.A. Reid, judges on "The X Factor," pose together at a world premiere screening event for the new television series, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011, in Los Angeles. The competition series gives viewers the opportunity to choose the next breakout music star or group.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Simon Cowell, a man who thinks big, is picturing his new singing contest "The X Factor" as America's No. 1 series.

The British music industry executive, TV star and producer wants to prove that the U.K. and international TV hit can play on what he considers the world's top stage, America.

For Fox, home of "The X Factor" and Cowell's former stomping ground "American Idol," his new show offers the chance to extend to the autumn season the ratings domination reliably provided by veteran "American Idol" from January to May.

The test starts this week with the debut of "X Factor" at 8-10 p.m. EDT Wednesday and Thursday (0000 GMT Thursday and Friday). Joining Cowell as judges are Antonio "L.A." Reid, Paula Abdul and Nicole Scherzinger. British TV personality Steve Jones is the host.

The goal is never "the silver medal. You want to be No. 1, and over the next few months we're going to throw everything at this to make this the best show on TV," Cowell says.

Like a movie producer with

his eye on a box-office hit, Cowell has attempted to fashion the ideal cast — featuring himself, of course. Could he have a blockbuster in store? Roll credits for "The X Factor" and let the public vote.

— THE STAR: Cowell, a proven brand with "American Idol" and the role model for every other talent show's smart but rudely blunt British judge.

He's a gunslinger, ready to shoot down the off-key and the annoying, and make the world safe for his brand of hit pop music and performers, whether that's Leona Lewis or Susan Boyle. On screen, he can be charmingly sincere or a curmudgeonly wit and knows how to fill out a tight T-shirt.

Behind the scenes, he's master of his fate. Peter Rice, Fox network chairman, gave him final vote on "X Factor" decisions, Cowell says, with this ringing endorsement: "If we're going to trust you with this much money, we're going to trust you."

He's a man of the people, dismissing those who question the wisdom of giving a \$5 million prize along with a record contract to a winner who is likely unused to such a windfall. "It's patron-

izing that middle class and wealthy people say that anyone who hasn't got money can't have it. I love the idea."

— THE BUDDY: Reid, the elegant, Grammy-winning producer and executive who has helped guide Usher, Justin Bieber and Mariah Carey, and is now dedicated to helping Cowell find voices that will dazzle and invigorate the music industry.

Reid is nobody's second fiddle but knows how to keep leading man Cowell in the spotlight. He knew the Brit was a "superstar" at their first encounter. They've bonded over business and breaking the rules by filling an office with cigar and cigarette smoke: "I loved everything about him," Reid says.

Cowell's response: "It's a mutual admiration society." Such heartfelt bromance can be winning.

Reid intends to use "X Factor" to find the kind of "great singers" he sees as absent from the music scene, citing Adele as an exception and a guiding light. "Shows like this are designed for talent like hers. ... Pure, pure singing. That's what's missing, and this opens the door for that." □



This Monday, Feb. 7, 2011 file photo shows WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange leaving Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in London.

Associated Press

WikiLeaks chief memoir published, against his will

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A long-awaited memoir by WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is finally being published — without his approval.

British publisher Canongate said Wednesday that the book, billed as an "unauthorized autobiography," will go on sale in stores and online Thursday.

Canongate paid the 40-year-old Assange for the rights to the memoir last year, and he began working with a ghostwriter on the book, which he said he hoped would be "one of the unifying documents of our generation."

Canongate sold rights to more than 30 publishers around the world, including Alfred A. Knopf in the U.S.

But Canongate said that as he recorded 50 hours of interviews about his life, Assange became increasingly troubled by the prospect, eventually declaring that "all memoir is prostitution."

The publisher said Assange tried to cancel his contract, but since he had not repaid his advance it had decided to publish the first draft that the WikiLeaks founder delivered to the publisher in March.

WikiLeaks did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Canongate publishing director Nick Davies said Assange's response to the decision to publish had been "close to outrage," but he said the WikiLeaks chief should be pleased with the result.

"It's the good and the bad of Julian in there, which ultimately does him some favors," Davies said.

"He has been portrayed as this Bond villain or a character from a Stieg Larsson novel ... but what comes through here is this very human portrait of Julian, warts and all," he said. "He's a warmer character than a lot of people will be expecting."

In December, Assange said he didn't want to write a book, but had been forced into the deal to pay his legal bills and keep WikiLeaks afloat. He said the deal would bring in \$500,000 from Canongate and \$800,000 from Knopf.

Knopf, a division of Random House, said Wednesday that it had canceled its contract to publish the book.

"The author did not complete his work on the manuscript or deliver a book to us in accordance with our agreement," spokesman Paul Bogaards said in a statement. "We will not be moving forward with our publication."

WikiLeaks and its silver-haired frontman shot to worldwide prominence with a series of spectacular leaks of secret U.S. material, including the publication of about 250,000 classified State Department cables. □

Obama rejects 'Obamaism'



DAVID BROOKS

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I'm a sap, a specific kind of sap. I'm an Obama Sap. When the president said the unemployed can't wait 14 more months for help and we had to do something right away, I believed him. When administration officials called around saying that the possibility of a double-dip recession was horrifyingly real and that it would be irresponsible not to come up with a package that could pass right away, I believed them.

I liked Obama's payroll tax cut ideas and urged Republicans to play along. But of course I'm a sap. When the president unveiled the second half of his stimulus it became clear that this package has nothing to do with helping people right away or averting a double dip. This is a campaign marker, not a jobs bill.

It recycles ideas that couldn't get passed even when Democrats controlled Congress. In his remarks Monday the president didn't try to win Republicans to even some parts of his measures. He repeated the populist cries that fire up liberals but are designed to enrage moderates and conservatives.

He claimed we can afford future Medicare costs if we raise taxes on the rich. He repeated the old half-truth about millionaires not paying as much in taxes as their secretaries. (In reality, the top 10 percent of earners pay nearly 70 percent of all income taxes, according to the IRS. People in the richest 1 percent pay 31 percent of their income to the federal government while the average worker pays less than 14 percent, according to the Congressional Budget Office.)

This wasn't a speech to get something done. This was the sort of speech that sounded better when Ted Kennedy

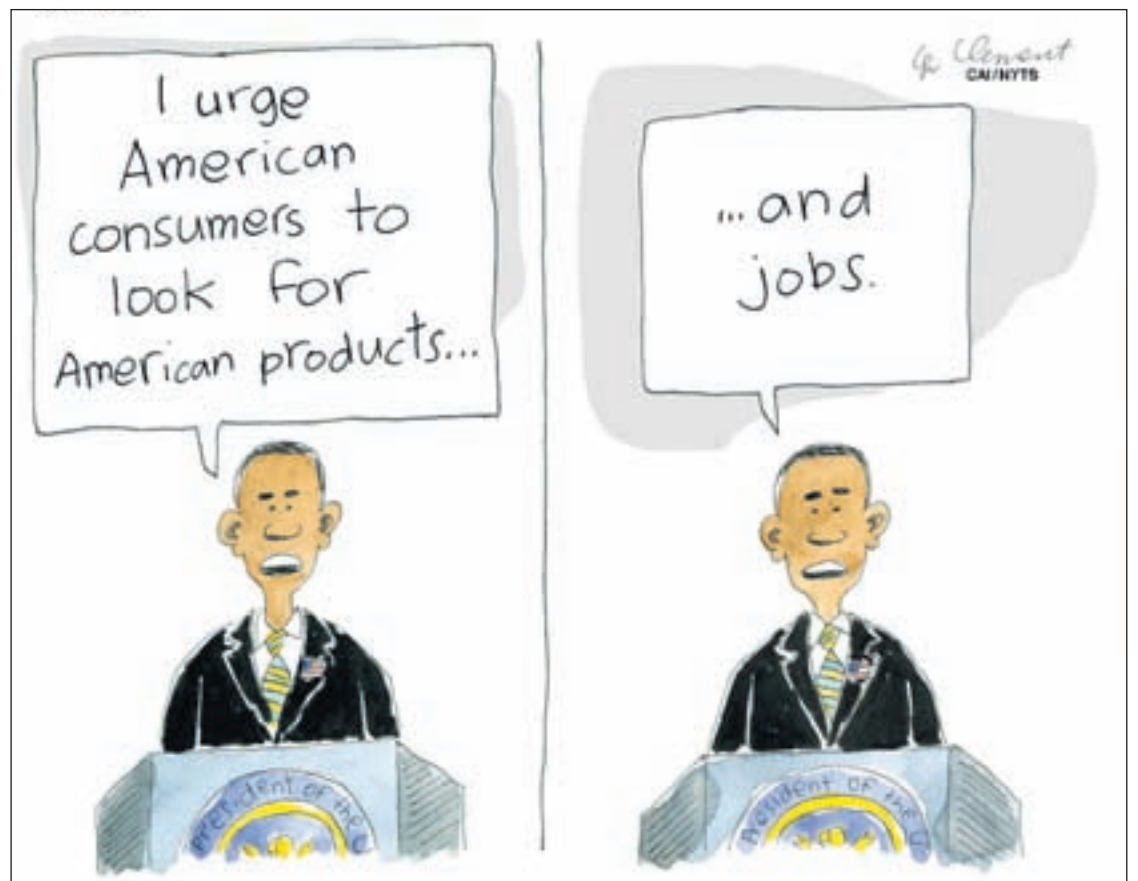
was delivering it. The result is that we will get neither short-term stimulus nor long-term debt reduction anytime soon, and I'm a sap for thinking it was possible.

Yes, I'm a sap. I believed Obama when he said he wanted to move beyond the stale ideological debates that have paralyzed this country. I always believe that Obama is on the verge of breaking out of the conventional categories and embracing one of the many bipartisan reform packages that are floating around.

But remember, I'm a sap. The White House has clearly decided that in a town of intransigent Republicans and mean ideologues, it has to be mean and intransigent too. The president was stung by the liberal charge that he was outmaneuvered during the debt-ceiling fight. So the White House has moved away from the Reasonable Man approach or the centrist Clinton approach.

It has gone back, as an appreciative Ezra Klein of The Washington Post conceded, to politics as usual. The president is sounding like the Al Gore for President campaign, but without the earth tones. Tax increases for the rich! Protect entitlements! People versus the powerful! I was hoping the president would give a cynical nation something unconventional, but, as you know, I'm a sap. Being a sap, I still believe that the president's soul would like to do something about the country's structural problems. I keep thinking he's a few weeks away from proposing serious tax reform and entitlement reform. But each time he gets close, he rips the football away. He whispered about seriously reforming Medicare but then opted for changes that are worthy but small. He talks about fundamental tax reform, but I keep forgetting that he has promised never to raise taxes on people in the bottom 98 percent of the income scale.

That means when he talks about raising revenue, which he is right to do, he can't really talk about anything substantive. He can't tax gasoline. He can't tax consumption. He can't do a comprehensive tax reform. He has to restrict his tax policy changes to the top 2 percent, and to get any real revenue he's got to hit them in every which way. □



Economic bleeding cure



PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2011 New York Times

Doctors used to believe that by draining a patient's blood they could purge the evil "humors" that were thought to cause disease. In reality, of course, all their bloodletting did was make the patient weaker, and more likely to succumb.

Fortunately, physicians no longer believe that bleeding the sick will make them healthy. Unfortunately, many of the makers of economic policy still do. And economic bloodletting isn't just inflicting vast pain; it's starting to undermine our long-run growth prospects.

Some background: For the past year and a half, policy discourse in both Europe and the United States has been dominated by calls for fiscal austerity. By slashing spending and reducing deficits, we were told, nations could restore confidence and drive economic revival.

And the austerity has been real. In Europe, troubled nations like Greece and Ireland have imposed savage cuts, even as stronger nations have imposed milder

austerity programs of their own. In the United States, the modest federal stimulus of 2009 has faded out, while state and local governments have slashed their budgets, so that overall we've had a de facto move toward austerity not so different from Europe's.

Strange to say, however, confidence hasn't surged. Somehow, businesses and consumers seem much more concerned about the lack of customers and jobs, respectively, than they are reassured by the fiscal righteousness of their governments. And growth seems to be stalling, while unemployment remains disastrously high on both sides of the Atlantic. But, say apologists for the bad results so far, shouldn't we be focused on the long run rather than short-run pain? Actually, no: The economy needs real help now, not hypothetical payoffs a decade from now. In any case, evidence is starting to emerge that the economy's "short run" troubles – now in their fourth year, and being made worse by the focus on austerity – are taking a toll on its long-run prospects as well. Consider, in particular, what is happening to America's manufacturing base. In normal times manufacturing capacity rises 2 percent or 3 percent every year. But faced with a persistently weak economy, industry has been reducing, not increasing, its productive capacity.

At this point, according to Federal Reserve estimates, manufacturing capacity is almost 5 percent lower than it was in December 2007.

What this means is that if and when a real recovery finally gets going, the economy will run into capacity constraints and production bottlenecks much sooner than it should. That is, the weak economy, which is partly the result of budget-cutting, is hurting the future as well as the present. Furthermore, the decline in manufacturing capacity is probably only the beginning of the bad news. Similar cuts in capacity will probably take place in the service sector – indeed, they may already be taking place. And with long-term unemployment at its highest level since the Great Depression, there is a real risk that many of the unemployed will come to be seen as unemployable.

Oh, and the brunt of those cuts in public spending is falling on education. Somehow, laying off hundreds of thousands of schoolteachers doesn't seem like a good way to win the future.

In fact, when you combine the growing evidence that fiscal austerity is reducing our future prospects with the very low interest rates on U.S. government debt, it's hard to avoid a startling conclusion: Budget austerity may well be counterproductive even from a purely fiscal point of view, because lower future growth means lower tax receipts. □

Young designers lead the way with London fashion

CATHY HORYN

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LONDON – Two of the best young talents in London, Christopher Kane and Thomas Tait managed to jog past the competition, which more often than not tripped over its feet in the rush to be relevant. Tait and Kane planted their models on the ground, in sneakers or rubber-soled sandals that matched the outfit. But sporty footwear wasn't the only thing that gave their clothes a sense of urgency. Both designers approached cut and silhouette as if they were problems to be solved.

cool shades of green, blue and silver gray, as well as brocades shot with silver. He kept the formality of the fabrics by adding knife-sharp creases and pressing the shapes to a papery flatness. Yet, Kane's shifts and two-piece outfits had a brisk feeling of movement, enhanced by organza-backed slits at the sides or elbows of coats. On Wednesday in his studio in Dalston, he said he initially planned to do longer lengths, but chopped them off. "I was sick of long," he said. You could imagine those satin outfits on the street. This was Tait's third collection. After

a sporty attitude. The pleats appeared as panels on sexy dresses, blousy white shorts or slim trousers in pale pink worn with an ultralight white leather motorcycle jacket. In roughly 20 outfits, Tait made logical choices that resulted in fresh looks. He didn't just slap on a print or use an empty reference. And he is not intimidated by an old form. He created a sweatshirt in a luminous white jersey (from the Italian mill Jackytex), which he put with white pants and Nikes. Christopher Bailey, plugged into Facebook and Twitter, with mills and knitters eager to serve, can



A model presents designs by Meadham Kirchhoff in London. The model wore bloomers and knit twin sets.

(Valerio Mezzanotti/The New York Times)

By contrast, many designers at the British spring shows simply offered a polished look, and then decorated it with vivid prints or color. Their ideas weren't empty, but they didn't seem interested in getting below the surface. This drive to give point of view to a silhouette, through cut and well-chosen fabrics, is something we associate with Nicolas Ghesquiere's generation of stars, so it's great to know that younger designers – Tait recently graduated from Central Saint Martins – still have that ambition. But it seems to be vanishing. Kane used duchess satin in

doing tailored clothes for fall, in dark wools, he said, "I really felt I needed to show people I could do something else." He wanted to do sports clothes, and baby pink and green. Instead of doing prints, he worked with a textile designer, Lauren McCalmont, to create garments from pleated silk jersey that was first printed with lines in a clear glaze. The effect was a grid pattern on the pleated jersey that some in the audience assumed was sequins. The pleating, which took about five months to get right, was an ingenious way to give a couture technique

essentially hit the cruise control at Burberry, so reliable is the machine. The show was held in a large tent in Kensington Gardens; the fashion people were inside a plastic space viewing clothes with an organic, artisanal theme: full linen skirts, parkas, trenches in vegetable colors with crochet and beaded details. That wasn't the only disconnection. The fact that Burberry was live-streaming the show to 8 million Facebook fans gave the event its feeling of importance, not that some person may have spent hours crocheting collars. □

Milan Fashion Week begins



A model wears a creation part of the Alberta Ferretti Spring-Summer 2012 fashion collection, during the fashion week in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



A model wears a creation of Paola Frani women's Spring-Summer 2012 fashion collection, during the fashion week in Milan, Italy, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2011.

(AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)